



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 4 Termly Newsletter: Autumn 2020

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you have had a restful summer holiday and we are now looking forward to a wonderful year working together. We understand that there may be some questions relating to your child settling back into school life this year and so we would like to reassure you that we have planned for this with our reconnection curriculum. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about what your children will be learning this term. If we need to share further information with you, we will use the 'text to parents' service so please make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number for you.

English: We will be working hard in English to develop the children's reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. We will be reading a number of fictional texts such as *The Promise* by Nicola Davies, *Race to the Frozen North – The Matthew Henson Story* by Catherine Johnson and *Kindlekrax* by Philip Ridley. These texts will inspire the children and enable them to write in a range of genres such as dialogue, diary entries, narrative, newspaper articles and non-fiction. They will be practising and developing their writing skills including the use of descriptive language, punctuation including inverted commas for speech and grammar. We will begin with the text 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers, and will encourage the children to discuss and understand their own response to the current situation. We will also be focusing on spelling and building on learning from Year 3 to further our understanding of spelling and phonics. In line with the school handwriting policy (<http://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/curriculum/writing-and-handwriting/handwriting>) we will be teaching weekly handwriting lessons with the aim of all students developing a joined and fluent style.

Maths: In our maths learning this term, our focus will be place value. This will involve recognising the place value of numbers up to 4 digits, ordering them, working with Roman numerals, negative numbers and rounding to 10, 100 and 1000. We will also be building on our understanding of column methods for addition and subtraction and learning about length and perimeter. For each unit we cover, we will be helping the children apply their new maths learning to investigations and mathematical problems including mastery of these skills. We will be using talk partners and collaborative tasks to develop children's understanding of mathematical vocabulary and to encourage them to verbalise their thinking. By the end of year 4, children need to recall all the times-table facts up to 12x12. To support this at home, children can access TTRockstars which is an online resource.

Science: Our science topics are Sound and States of Matter. In our topic on Sound, we will learn how sound is caused by vibrations, how we hear sounds and how things like pitch and loudness can affect sounds. In States of Matter, we will be studying the differences between solids, liquids and gases, investigating the different states of water and learning about the water cycle.

Thematic: This term our theme is: When in Rome. In history, we will be learning about the Roman invasion of Britain, Boudicca and the Celts. We will discover how Roman inventions and innovations are still in use today. In geography, we will be learning about how the Roman Empire spread, Roman society and comparing Celtic Britain to Rome. In Art, children will learn to design a Roman shield and study mosaics. In DT, we will be creating replica Roman purses. Places of interest, linked to our theme, that you could visit with your child are the Museum of London, Colchester, Bath or the local library to research Ancient Rome.

Trips and events: Due to the current situation, trips and visitors into schools will not take place during the autumn term.

What you can do to help: Please make sure that your child reads every night and sign their reading diary at the end of the week. Regular reading is proven to improve children's learning. Ask them questions about what they've read. Ask them what they think the words mean or what the character might be thinking or feeling. There is no such thing as a night with 'no homework': every night is reading night! Lists of spelling words for each year group are available and children are expected to know these by the end of the year. Times-tables need constant revision - children should know these facts instantly, in mixed order, and know the corresponding division fact. By the end of Year 4, children are now expected to know their times tables to 12 x 12. 'Mathletics' is our on-line maths homework. Children are expected to earn 1000 points (a bronze certificate) each week but are welcome to earn more points! 'Live' Mathletics is particularly good for developing mental maths skills.

The Year 4 Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org