



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 4 Termly Newsletter: Spring 2022

We hope that you have had a fantastic Christmas and look forward to having a wonderful 2022 working together. 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 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. We will be reading a number of fictional texts such as 'Fox' by Margaret Wild, 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit and 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson. These texts will inspire the children and enable them to write in a range of text types such as diary entries, first person narrative and non-fiction. They will be practising and further developing their writing skills, including understanding main and subordinate clauses, using powerful verbs to engage the reader, prepositional phrases and commas to mark clauses. *Please note that Race to the Frozen North tells the story of Matthew Henson, the first man to reach the North Pole, who was not recognised for his achievements due to the colour of his skin. It contains some language associated with the era in which the story is set (late-19th century) and some more mature themes so we are reading an edited version in class. The text has been selected as an inspirational story and we examine how those who were discriminated against in the past achieved extraordinary successes in the face of prejudice, disadvantage and ignorance. Children consider lessons that were learnt when credit was eventually given to Henson thirty years after his death and why Henson's story continues to be told. We recommend that parents do not obtain copies of this book for their children to read at home as we are showing children carefully-selected extracts only.*

Maths: In our maths learning this term, we will continue looking at multiplication and will introduce the children to the expanded column method in accordance with the Pegasus calculation policy (supporting videos can be found on the trust website). We will then be looking at finding the area of rectilinear shapes, either by counting squares or measuring and multiplying sides. We will then learn about fractions, including equivalence and addition and subtraction. Finally, children will be able to make a link between fractions and decimals when they are introduced to hundredths and tenths. Decimals will also be taught in the context of measures, such as money. As always, we will be seeking to deepen the children's understanding of these concepts through reasoning and problem solving. We will also be focusing on recall of times tables facts up to 12 x 12 in preparation for the 'Multiplication Tables Check' in June.

Science: Our science topics are 'Living Things and their Habitats' and 'Animals Including Humans'. In Living Things and their Habitats we will be studying life processes, habitats, how animals adapt to their surroundings and how humans are impacting on this. In Animals Including Humans, we will learn about teeth and the digestive system in humans, moving on to food webs including predators, producers and prey.

Thematic: Until half term, we will be continuing with our 'When in Rome' theme. In history, we will be learning about Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius. The children will have a chance to create their own Roman mosaic from ceramic tiles and a Roman purse from felt. In geography, we will be learning about how the Roman Empire ended and comparing Italy to Britain. After half term, we will then start our new topic of Invaders and Settlers. This will include an introduction to the topic using timelines, looking at who invaded Britain after the Romans left and who the Angles, Saxons and Jutes were.

Trips and events: TBC

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, taken from our weekly spelling sessions, are available from your child's class teacher. Times tables need constant revision - children should know these facts instantly, in mixed order, and know the corresponding division facts. By the end of Year 4, children are now expected to know their times tables to 12 x 12. 'Mathletics' is our online 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. Children can also access the Multiplication app on Purple Mash which is in a similar format to the online Multiplication Tables Check in June.

The Year 4 Team

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

Dates for your diary:

Cypress Junior School

14/01, 21/01,
28/01, 04/02,
11/02

Cricket lessons at South Norwood Lake. 45 minute session per class.
Children in Hawthorn class to wear PE kit as usual.
Children in Rowan and Lime classes to wear school uniform with trainers on these dates.

7th-11th February

Thematic Week:
Due to precautions against COVID19 transmission, we will not be holding a Museum Day, however we will be holding Thematic Week in school so children can still enjoy a rich curriculum experience.