



# YEAR 4

## Spring Term Newsletter 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! The Y4 team would like to congratulate all of the children for their hard work and achievements last term. The children have settled back into school routine really well and are already producing fantastic work.

Please remember, if you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Y4 team directly on the following email address: [y4@stillnessis.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:y4@stillnessis.lewisham.sch.uk)

We are looking forward to another wonderful term!  
From the Y4 team.



**Miss Rooney**  
(Parbury Class)



**Ms Scrivener**  
(Parbury Class)



**Ms Liston**  
(Ivy Class)



**Mr Sloan**  
(Cypress Class)



### Traders and Raiders

Big and strong, powerful and brave, the Saxons wave their battle-axes and brandish their swords as they begin to invade Britain's shores. Sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. Find out about the lives of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from. Meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia – never before had such terror swept the land. Make a Saxon sword or a Viking brooch and decorate it with intricate patterns. Choose to be a Saxon or Viking and trade your crafty goods, but let us keep it cool. We don't want a fight breaking out. Are you ready to shine a light on the dangerous and deadly Dark Ages?



### Maths

The children will start the term by continuing our multiplication and division unit. This time we will be building our skills to answer questions involving 2-digit and 3-digit numbers such as  $23 \times 3$  or  $162 \div 4$ . We will then move on to a new unit – Perimeter. Within this topic we will also recap on 2D shapes and measuring in mm, cm, m and km. After half term, we will move on to Fractions. We will start by recapping the previous learning taught last year such as key words (denominator/numerator), understanding 1 whole and ordering fractions. We will then begin learning about improper fractions, equivalent fractions and adding/subtracting fractions.



### English

This term we will start the term studying stories from another culture. We will then have a go at writing our own stories that have elements from a culture of our choice. After this topic, we will move onto writing newspapers. We will internalise an article all about a Viking invasion using facts that we have learned in our topic lessons. Throughout the term, will continue to recap key writing skills such as using capital letters, full stops and paragraphs in our writing. Our main focus this term will be using different types of clauses to make sentences, using inverted commas for speech and we will use research/facts to inform our writing and using subheadings to organise our ideas.

## **Routines and Reminders**

**PE days** – Wednesday morning with Coach Shona. Children should come to school in their school tracksuit (with the logo), white t-shirt and black trainers (if you do not have a school tracksuit please make sure the children are wearing plain black or navy sportswear) on their PE day.

**Additional PE session** – Friday morning with the class teacher. Children do not need to come into school in their PE kits.

**Library** – Y4 will be visiting the school library every Friday. Please remember to bring in your library book on this day if you wish to return it for a new one.

**Reminders** – Children should be coming into school with their water bottle and their current reading book. These can be books from home or borrowed from the school library.

## **Homework**

**Weekly spellings** – These can be found on the school website (under the main heading Curriculum and Assessment and drop down to English) and the children will be tested every Friday.

**Daily reading** – Children should spend 15-20 minutes of reading a day.

**Time Tables Rock Stars** – All children have an account to practise their times tables. In Y4 the children will be completing a Times Tables Test towards the end of Y4. They will need to be able to answer questions as quickly as possible. It would be helpful if all Y4 children are practising all the times tables up to X12 in preparation for this test. We are encouraging children to start with increasing their pace when answering x1, x2, x5 and x10 multiplications.

**Google Classroom:** We will continue to use Google Classroom to upload any work to complete be completed at home. Your child's class teacher will inform them if there is a task to be completed.

## **What else will be happening in the Curriculum?**

### **RE**

During our RE lessons this term, we will be starting a new unit called People of Faith. In this unit, we will be looking at many different famous figures and how their beliefs have impacted on others. Some of the people we will be looking at are Malala Yousafzai, Dalai Lama, Jonathon Sacks, Fauja Singh and Bear Grylls. We will then end the unit by thinking about how our own beliefs impact on others.

### **PSHE**

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at the unit '*Dreams and Goals*' which consists of the children understanding how to set achievable goals, resilience and overcoming disappointment.

### **Art/DT**

The children will be studying the artwork 'Valentine's hearts' by Jim Dine. The children will draw outlines using charcoal and then fill the centre with painted hearts, dots and lines. After half term, the children will move onto learning all about Viking art by drawing knots and completing a runestone in clay.

### **Music**

In music the children will be Working with rhythms, melodies and notation linked to the Vikings.

### **Spanish**

We will start the term by recapping Y3 learning and focus on days of the weeks, numbers to 31 and months of the year. Using this previous vocabulary, we will then learn how to write a sentence about different dates in Spanish. After half term, we will start by learning new vocabulary focussing on food and drinks. We will then look at using these new words in sentences.

### **Science**

Our Science topic is *Electricity* and we will be learning about where electricity comes from, how we use electricity in our every day life, building circuits and conductors/insulators. We will then start a new topic about *Sound*. This unit will answer the question – *How do we hear sound?*

**Computing**

We will start the term by learning how to use 'scratch' block coding to create a quiz for our partner. This is a difficult and new skill to learn so we are encouraging the children to have a play with it at home. Children can find the website link to this on their Google Classrooms. After half term, we will be focusing on designing and creating our own logos and labels.

**Guided Reading**

Our class Guided Reading books this term are:

Ivy – Varjak Paw by S.F Said

Cypress – The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Parbury – The Firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman

**How to help your child!**

- Every week your child will be sent home spellings. It is important that you learn these with your child as they will have a spelling test every Friday.
- Reading with your child daily is a great way for them to answer questions and share what they are enjoying about their current reading book.
- Please practise times tables with your child using videos, quizzing, songs, times table Rockstars etc. This will help them to feel prepared for their times table test towards the end of Y4

**Educational Visits in Year 4 this term:**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Workshop about Vikings in school. This will happen during curriculum week. More information to come.