



# YEAR 4

## Autumn Term Newsletter 2023

Welcome to Y4!

We hope the Y4 children and parents/carers have enjoyed their summer holiday. We are so pleased to see how well the children have settled into their new classes and they are already producing amazing work in all their lessons.

Throughout the year, we kindly ask for your continued support, to ensure that the children are organised for their learning by being on time for school and wearing the appropriate uniform. If you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Y4 team directly on the following email address: [y4@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:y4@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk)

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



**Miss Rooney**  
(Parbury Class)



**Mr Sloan**  
(Ivy Class)



### Topic

Welcome to the planet's coldest lands. Vast wilds and hostile territories; incredibly beautiful, yet often deadly. Take shelter from the elements or fall prey to icy winds and the deepest chill. Trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or being pulled by a team of mighty sled dogs. Be alert, for magnificent mammals roam these lands, sometimes hungry or fresh for a fight. Perhaps a hungry polar bear or an Arctic fox is hunting rodents, as swift as the wind. Research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and ecosystems, and compose evocative poems about the Northern Lights. Become part of an Antarctic rescue team, braving the elements



### Maths

We will start the year by practising our place value skills. First, we will recap previously taught learning by partitioning numbers up to 1000. Once secure, we will begin to count forwards and backwards to 10,000. Throughout the term we will be using counters, place value charts and dienes to partition 4-digit numbers. We will end the unit practising rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will then be moving on to a unit all about addition and subtraction. The children will be given the opportunity to build their confidence using the column method which was taught in Y3. This time we will be adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers. After half term, we will complete a short unit looking at finding the area of a



### English

This term we will start by looking at a non-fiction text linked to leaflets. We will be linking this T4W unit with our current topic 'Frozen Kingdoms' to produce a leaflet all about the Polar regions. We will then move on to a fictional story based on the film 'Toy Story'. The children will be given the chance to write about everyday objects coming to life and the adventures these objects get up to when no one is looking. After half term we will then complete a non-fiction unit again linking to our 'Frozen Kingdom' topic. The children will use the chrome books to research a person who has explored the Polar regions and use this information to write a biography. Throughout the term, we will

to rescue terrified passengers from a ship struck by a deadly iceberg that hides deep beneath the Southern Ocean. Wrap up well and settle by the fire. I'm just going outside and may be some time.

shape. We will end the Autumn term working on our multiplication skills. Our focus will be the x6, x7, x9 and x12 tables but we will also revisit the one taught in previous years.

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 descriptive language, selecting interesting vocabulary for our reader, using research and facts to inform our writing and using subheadings to organise our ideas.

### **Routines and Reminders**

**PE days** – Thursday morning. Children should come to school in the correct PE school uniform (a white t-shirt, navy blue/black shorts or trousers and black trainers).

**Library** – Y4 will be visiting the school library every Tuesday with their class. 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 10+ minutes of reading a day. There are a range of books within the classrooms and opportunities to visit the school library. Please listen to your child read and when possible, ask comprehension questions to extend their understanding.

**Times Table Rock Stars** – All children have an account to practise their times tables. In Y4 the children will be completing the Multiplication Timetables Check (MTC) towards the end of Y4. They will need to be able to answer any timestables question in 6 seconds. It would be helpful if all Y4 children are practising all the times tables up to X12 in preparation for this test.

**Topic** – This term, the project is based on 'The Frozen Kingdoms'. We would like the children to pick an animal that lives in a polar region and research how it is able to survive in the extreme conditions. Children can choose how they would like to present their research to the class and can be as creative as they choose – posters, PowerPoints, stories, comics, videos etc. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December children will be invited to present their finished projects to their class if they wish to.

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

#### **RE**

During our RE lessons this term, we will be focussing on Judaism and Christianity. We will be learning about what these religions believe, any special places and any special symbols. We will also be looking at different stories from these religions.

#### **PSHE**

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at the unit '*Being me in my world*' which consists of the children understanding their place in the class, school and global community. After half term we will start our new topic 'Celebrating Difference'.

#### **Art/DT**

The children will be taking part in a D&T project linking to their 'Frozen Kingdom' topic. We will be investigating different types of structures used in the polar region, what measures are put in place for humans to survive the extreme elements. We will use our findings to plan, build and evaluate our own shelters.

#### **Music**

The children will be exploring sounds in the music room on a variety of percussion to create a soundscape of the Arctic: icy cold, desolate, remote, windy etc pitched and unpitched percussion. They will experiment with

different structures using A,B and C and make use of the following elements in performances: Rhythm, Pitch, Tempo, Dynamics and TIMBRE.

### **Spanish**

We will start the year by recapping the Y3 topics we learnt last year. We will then move on to Spanish numbers from 1-39, using the conjunction 'y' in a sentence, plurals of nouns and the notion of gender.

### **Science**

Our Science topic is '*Animals, including humans*' and we will be learning about the functions of the digestive system, different types of teeth, their functions and food chains. We will be comparing the human digestive system. After half term our topic is '*States of matter*' and we will be learning about solid, liquids and gases. We will learn about melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation and the water cycle.

### **Computing**

We will start the year by learning about staying safe online by covering topics such as cyberbullying, being part of an online community and how to search for things safely. After half term, we will build our word processing skills by covering topics such as checking spellings, creating tables, changing the layout of a page and adding hyperlinks.

### **Guided Reading**

Our class Guided Reading books this term are:

Ivy – Varjak Paw by S.F Said

Parbury – The Firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman

### **How to help your child!**

- Every week your child will have weekly 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 the Multiplication Timestables check (MTC) towards the end of Y4.

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

This term, we have two trips booked so far. In October, the children will be visiting the Science museum to take part in a workshop linked to our Science unit as well as watching a 3D film linked to our Frozen Kingdoms topic. Dates and information will be given out closer to the time.

We are also currently arranging for a guest speaker to visit the school with an experienced explorer. Thank you to the Y4 parent who has helped us to arrange this!