

## Heathfield Junior School - Curriculum Bulletin

Year 4

Spring 2017

Welcome back, we hope you all had a pleasant and relaxing holiday.

**Think Link** - Our Spring One think link topic is 'Anglo Saxons' and our Spring Two topic is 'Farming and Food'. In February we will have 10 fertilised eggs delivered to each class. Over two weeks we will watch the eggs hatch and see the chicks grow. It will be very exciting!

**Literacy** - Our first unit of work will be based on stories from 'Tales Told in Tents'. These stories are all from Central Asia; we will be finding out about the cultures of countries in this region. This unit will incorporate lots of drama and reading activities before we write our own stories based on those we have read.

Please continue to hear your child read and encourage them to read and record their reading daily in their journals. Daily reading is proven to help your child make significant progress in both reading and writing.

**Maths** - This term we will be covering fractions and decimals. This includes: recognising families of equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator, recognising and writing decimal equivalents and rounding and ordering decimals. This term we will also be covering two aspects of measurement: time and money. The children will be learning how to read, write & convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clocks. This is an area of mathematics that is easy to practice at home and we encourage children to do so. Please continue to work with your child on learning their times tables; by the end of Year 4 children are expected to know all times tables up to 12x12. This is extremely important as it supports their learning in a range of mathematical areas, including fractions. Thank you for your continued support.

**Science** - Spring 1 - Electricity - Power up - Building circuits, investigating conductivity of different materials and making switches.

Spring 2 - Looking at States - Investigating the different states of matter- solids, liquids and gases.

**RE** - Our topic this half term is Sikhism. In February we will be visiting the local Gurdwara to support this unit of work. After half term we will be studying Christianity in the lead up to Easter.

**Music** - This term Year 4 will learn the guitar in their class groups. The lessons are free and are organised by the Richmond Music Trust. They are designed to give the children a 'taster' of what it's like to learn a musical instrument. Children will be able to continue learning after Easter for a small cost.

**Homework** - Homework will continue to be set on Thursdays, to be returned by Monday. Children should spend approximately 40 minutes on their homework. Spellings will also continue to be set on Mondays and tested on Fridays. Children should continue to practise their tables; all times tables should be learnt by the end of Year 4. It is great to see so many children wearing their times tables badges around the school with pride!

### **School Uniform Reminder**

Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform to school. This includes wearing suitable **black** shoes or boots, not trainers. Your child should also have full PE kit in school every day. This includes black or navy shorts, their house T-shirt and trainers.

**Important dates**

**Thursday 19th January**- Author visit - Sally Pomme Clayton

**Thursday 19th January** - Year 4 guitar lessons start

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Last swimming session

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** - Parents' Evenings

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February** - Gurdwara visits

**Monday 20th February** - Living eggs arrive

**Week beginning 20th March** - Year 4 Production (exact dates to be given nearer the time)

The Year 4 Team