

WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Borley

Year 3 and 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome back, I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break. We have had a busy start to the New Year.

Our Themes

Our first theme is 'The Mayans'. We will be travelling back thousands of years to find out about this advanced civilisation. We will learn about their food, number and writing systems, their daily lives, where and when they lived and much more.

After half term, our theme will be 'It's a small world'. The class will find out about people who have moved to the UK at some point in the past and have had a positive influence. They will look at an area familiar to them and consider the influences and impacts that incomers have had and discover how the area has changed. They will also have an opportunity to find out about individuals who have had a positive influence in the UK in recent times. They will work towards creating a fascinating tour guide of their own local area, both in the present and in the past.

English

There will be many different writing opportunities during this term. Including writing a newspaper report and a letter based on our class book 'Grendel: a Cautionary Tale about Chocolate'. In the second half term the children will be writing their own stories and write and perform a play. Within reading we will be developing our comprehension skills especially inference. We will continue developing our spellings and grammar and implementing this learning within our writing.

Maths

We will be covering many areas in maths this term. We are learning about written methods of division and multiplication. We will be working with length, area and perimeter. Finally we will be learning about decimals and fractions.

Science

In the first half term, we are going to learn about the 'Power of forces'. During this topic children will explore how forces can make objects start to move, speed up, slow down or change direction. They will compare how things move on different surfaces. They will identify that magnets attract some materials and not others and that these are known as magnetic materials.

In the second half term our science theme will be 'Can you see me?'. We will look at light. They will learn about how we see objects, the ways in which different objects reflect different amounts of light

and how these ideas can be applied to staying safe at night. They will explore what causes a shadow, as well as how the shape and size of a shadow can be affected by its position. They will learn how exposure to sunlight can cause harm, and about ways by which they can protect themselves.

The children will carry out investigations and make predictions, record results and evaluate.

Home Learning

Home Learning activities shall be set at the beginning of each half term. The children will be given a choice of six activities to choose from. Their completed work will be shared with the class and celebrated at the end of every half term. In addition, spellings, reading activities and maths homework will also be sent home on a weekly basis.



Reading Books



We should have our reading books and records in school every day and should read at home as often as we can. Children should be reading with an adult where possible so that the adults can ask them questions about what they have read to check their understanding.

PE

It is important to make sure that we have PE kits in school throughout the week. Children will need shorts, a t-shirt or a tracksuit (for those colder outdoor sessions), trainers and plimsolls.

This half term, the children will continue working with Sam Loomes every **Wednesday afternoon** who works within the curriculum to ensure each individual is being challenged to their ability. These PE lessons are designed to work core skills (for example, throwing and catching/hand eye co-ordination) and consist of a warm up which will progress into an activity where a specific skill will be put into practice in a game situation at the end. Sam strives to make every lesson fun and enjoyable to make sure the children are putting full effort into it to maximise their performance and development.



We thank you for your support with your child's learning. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss Saward