

Year 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to Maney Hill in 2019!

The children have returned fully refreshed after the Christmas break and are all excited for the term ahead.

Here is a brief outline of the units we have planned for this term:

Subject	Focus
English	Our unit for English this half-term will have the theme of dragons. The children will discover myths and legends about dragons, those that play a role in Chinese culture and Viking dragon boats. They will look at dragon-themed poetry and enjoy the full-length story <i>How to Train Your Dragon</i> . They will study vocabulary and language structure to write information and explanation texts, a diary entry in role, a play script and free-verse poem.
Maths	The children will begin this term by learning about and then applying their knowledge of fractions to different problems. Throughout the term they will develop and consolidate their mental and written methods for calculating addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Towards the end of the half-term, children will focus on decimals and also tackle work on statistics.
Science	In Science we will be learning about electricity and circuits. The children will become familiar with elements of circuits and aspects of electrical safety. Additionally, we will study plant and animal biology, exploring habitats and using keys to group and identify living things.
Topic	Our topic for the Autumn Term is 'Meet the Greeks.' The children will research the climate, population, and location of Greece on a map and compare this with the UK. We will also be looking at the many Greek Gods and what they individually represent. We will explore key dates from Ancient Greece and organise these into chronological order on a timeline. Furthermore, children will be able to retell the story of the Trojan Horse, identify some characters of the Greek alphabet, explore the history of the Parthenon, and sample some Greek foods.
R.E.	The children will be learning about the Amrit ceremony in Sikhism and also about prayer in Islam. They will learn to value other's opinions through looking at the Christian story of the Wise and Foolish Builders.
P.E.	In P.E. this term the children will get the opportunity to develop gymnastics skills, and develop skills associated with team games. Please make sure that your child has their full P.E. kit in school at all times, including trainers. If possible, a pair of tracksuit bottoms would be beneficial for when P.E. is taught outside during the cold weather.

The children will also have weekly keyboard lessons.

Homework, Spellings and Reading

- One piece of homework will be handed out each Friday, to be returned no later than the following Wednesday. Homework will usually consist of a piece of English or Maths, although occasionally a Topic activity may be given out.
- The children will also get spellings to learn on a weekly basis. Spellings will be handed out on Friday, alongside children's homework, to be learnt for a test the following Friday. As a way of learning spellings, I would recommend getting your child to use them within written sentences. Not only does this help with spelling the words, but also puts the words into context, builds your child's vocabulary and develops their sentence structure.
- Each child should be reading frequently at home and children will have the opportunity to change their reading book as required.

Diary Date: Year 4 Inspire Workshop – Wednesday 6th February

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or queries throughout the term, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Year 4 staff.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Fullard, Mrs Morecock and Mrs Grayston