

Class 4 Spring Term Newsletter 2023



Welcome back! We're looking forward to a very exciting spring term. This newsletter will tell you all you need to know about what we will be learning this term, as well as lots of reminders to help you get the most out of your days in school.

Teaching in Class 4: Mr Dean continues to be the main lead for teaching in Class 4. Some lessons are taught by Mrs Farraday & Mrs Craggs.

PE Lessons are scheduled to take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. A light waterproof and spare socks are strongly advised during the winter months, as P.E. sessions still go ahead if it is raining. Trainers are also essential - pupils are not allowed to wear school shoes for P.E. Please have P.E. kits in school every day as session times may change on short notice.

Feel Good Fridays: Our focus on wellbeing and mental health continues this term with a visit from our good friends at Barrow Raiders. Every Friday, Class 4 will either enjoy an active lunchtime session or a skills-focussed rugby session during afternoon lessons so pupils are permitted to wear their PE kits all day in school each Friday. PE kits will therefore be brought home every Thursday afternoon ready to put on each Friday morning before school.

Equipment: Children in Class 4 enjoy having their own pencil case in school as long as it is of reasonable size (i.e. it fits in a pupil's tray!) Communal, school-provided supplies (glue sticks, scissors etc.) should not be kept in personal pencil cases - please endeavour to return these if they somehow end up off site! Toys, personal sketch-books and 'fidget' items (including blue-tack, scissors and putty) are not allowed in class without explicit permission from the class teacher. They may be confiscated if they cause a distraction!

Water bottles are a must for busy brains in the classroom and should **only** contain water - please no juice or flavoured water and definitely no sugary or fizzy drinks! Bottles can be refilled in school throughout the day.

Reply slips and payments should be placed in the classroom box before the morning register is taken - late additions may not be processed until the following day. Please check bags periodically for letters which might have been forgotten about!

The **Edinburgh Residential (6th - 8th February)** is fast approaching - I hope you're all excited! We will be holding an information evening on **Monday 16th January at 6PM** for adults and children where we will give you all of the information you need, including kit lists, sleeping arrangements, itineraries and more! Please ensure you have paid in full for this visit by Friday 27th January, a total of £225 per child covering all food, transport, accommodation and entry to museums. Note that final bookings are still being made; if any changes to the final total are necessary we will inform you towards the end of January. Please contact the office if you are unclear of your remaining balance.

Homework: Learning never stops! In preparation for secondary school, Class 4 has a focus on students managing their own learning outside of the classroom. This includes keeping homework safe, completing it on time and asking for help if needed. Support from parents in managing this and ensuring work is completed in good time is greatly appreciated. We have the same standards for homework as we do work completed inside the classroom, including presentation. Work should be completed thoroughly and neatly, usually in either pencil or black pen. If homework is consistently late or does not meet the expected standards, pupils may be asked to complete the work during a breaktime or lunchtime, but I will contact you if I have any concerns.

Pupils are set the main bulk of their homework on a Friday, due in on the following Friday unless otherwise specified. Each student has a blue homework diary where they record what they need to do each week. Homework often takes the form of CGP books provided by school (Y6) or photocopied sheets - there will usually be a maths, English and 'topic' task.

Spellings are tested and new words are set on a Monday. Students will have a set of 5 or more words to learn, alongside a word work activity designed to reinforce the spelling rule. Spellings should be practised little and often; practice strategies are learned in school.

Students are expected to read regularly at home - around five times a week - both alone and to/with an adult. This should be recorded in reading records alongside any notes on the reading (particular discussions, tricky words etc.) Parents are asked to sign reading records to acknowledge reading at home. Pupils are welcome to read their own choice of book from home or choose from the extensive selection in school.

Contact: If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me at class4@levens.cumbria.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Urgent queries or information, including drop-off and pick-up arrangements, **must** be sent to office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk as the class inbox is not monitored during teaching time. You can also keep up with our learning by visiting our blog at levens.cumbria.sch.uk/school-blog



Curriculum Overview:

Maths: We start the spring term by continuing with our fractions topic. We will later make use of our fractions knowledge to understand decimals and percentages as parts of a whole or amount. Year 5 have time to further develop their knowledge of multiplication and division, while year 6 dive into the worlds of ratio and algebra - don't let those words scare you! Towards the latter part of the term, we cover statistics and calculating volume, area and perimeter.

English: Key texts drive our learning in English this term and we have some great ones to cover! We start with *The Highwayman*, moving on to *the Mayan Creation Story*, *Just So Stories*, *How to Live Forever* and the poem *The Sea is a Hungry Dog*. Using these texts, we will explore a range of writing genres, including descriptive writing, newspaper reports, narratives, poetry, balanced discussions and informational texts. Guided reading sessions also continue, with year 6 completing further work based on novels while year 5 move into exploring a range of non-fiction text types.

Science: We cover two different, yet related, topics in our science during the spring term. We begin by examining evolution and inheritance, exploring how animals are adapted to survive in the environments in which they live. After half term, we switch our focus to living things and their habitats where we learn about the different life cycles of very different creatures great and small.

Topic: Having enjoyed the Ancient Greeks so much last term, I'm very excited to move onto learning about the *Ancient Mayan Civilisation* which provides a contrast to European history. Meanwhile, our geography unit will further develop our mapping and fieldwork skills, making the most of our residential trip to Edinburgh to study how a city differs from the rural area in which we live.

SCARF: SCARF stands for the values we uphold in school - Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. In explicit teaching sessions we will cover topics under the themes of 'valuing difference' and 'being my best'.

PE: Basketball, gymnastics, hockey and orienteering are all on the cards for PE this term. I'm particularly looking forward to orienteering after our great performance at Elleray!

Computing: Two very different topics make up our computing this term: databases and video editing. We will make use of a wide variety of methods, programs and hardware, exploring the benefits and drawbacks of each.

RE: Our Christian Value for this term is koinonia. As well as observing Lent and Easter, we will also study Genesis and the scientific explanation of evolution, exploring whether these two theories are conflicting or complementary. We are also looking forward to **world faith week** where the whole school will dive deeper into studying a range of different religions.

D&T: Our extended D&T projects for this term are *bridges* and *monitoring devices*. We will explore how to create strong structures and create/program a wearable device.

Art: Art will focus on two topics this term: *monoprinting* and *sculpture*. The work of Sandra Pearce and Alberto Giacometti will inspire our creations.

French: Revising and consolidating our knowledge of French numbers will help us begin to ask for and tell the time. We will also learn how to describe places in town and ask for directions.