

# Class 4 Spring Term Newsletter 2024



**Welcome back to another action-packed term! This newsletter is full of important information to ensure everything in class 4 runs smoothly – please do take the time to read it carefully.**

**Teaching in Class 4:** Mr Dean continues to be the main lead for teaching in Class 4. Additional lessons are taught by Mrs Farraday. The class is supported by Mrs Matheson, Mrs Court & Mrs Crowder.

**PE Lessons** are scheduled to take place on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays** and students must wear full PE kit for lessons. We try to get out in most weather, so spare socks and waterproof jackets are advised! It is helpful if PE kits remain in school throughout the week as session timings occasionally must be changed at short notice. Barrow Raiders will continue to deliver afternoon sessions, so all students can wear their PE kits throughout the day on a Friday.



**Equipment:** I cannot stress enough that the most important item of school equipment is the humble pencil! If you bring a pencil case to school, please make sure it contains the essentials of a pencil, ruler and eraser. Scissors should not be brought into school please. Furthermore, please remember that swaps, trades or gifts of any personal items must not occur in school as this often causes friction between students.

**Reply slips & payments** continue to be collected in class each morning – children are encouraged to place their items in the collection box by 08.50. Please note that any letters which miss the collection time may not be processed until the following day. Parents can support by checking book bags periodically for any letters which may have been forgotten!



**Homework** will continue to be set and checked each Friday - it *must* be submitted, with a name on, by **Friday morning** unless otherwise specified. Pupils who do not have their homework in school by the deadline will be required to complete it during their break time or complete alternative work. This includes homework which has been completed but left at home. I recommend bringing it in on Thursday just in case!

**Spellings** follow a slightly different timetable, being tested and set on a **Wednesday**. Students are taught a range of strategies for learning their spellings, but nothing beats regular practice!

**Reading:** Students are expected to read regularly at home - around five times a week - both alone and with an adult. This should be acknowledged by a parent signature in a reading record. School staff will monitor independent reading regularly and make suggestions about what to read next as appropriate. This will also be recorded in the child's reading record.

**SATs week** for year 6 will commence on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. There is nothing extra that needs to be done now, but further information regarding our support offer and a parents information evening will be released closer to the time. This does not apply to year 5, who will continue their learning as normal.

**Vaping workshop:** as part of our ongoing SCARF curriculum, a visitor from CADAS will be coming into school to discuss the risks and harms associated with vaping by young people – a trend which is on the rise nationwide. There is no action for parents and carers to take but if you have any questions about the content of the session, we encourage you to get in touch with either myself or Mrs Haslam – our SCARF lead.

**Liverpool World Museum:** To support our learning in history about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation, Class 4 visit the Liverpool World Museum in the Spring term. Further details will be released as they are available.

**Patterdale Hall:** Thank you for continuing to pay towards this exciting experience. Please remember that the next instalment of £50 is due by 9th February. We will be holding a parents information evening on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 5PM** to let you know what to expect and answer any questions you may have.

**Contact:** If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please feel free to speak to me – the best time to do so is at the end of the day when your child is collected. Urgent queries or information, including drop-off and pick-up arrangements, **must** be by telephone or sent to [office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk). You can also keep up with our learning by visiting our blog at [levens.cumbria.sch.uk/school-blog](https://levens.cumbria.sch.uk/school-blog), as well as looking out for text alerts and checking the school calendar at <https://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk/calendar/>.

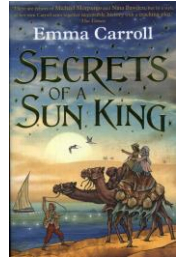




## Curriculum information

**Maths:** We continue with studying numbers smaller than one this term, with a dive into the worlds of fraction, decimals and percentages. Following this, we move on to perimeter, area and volume before rounding the term out with some statistics. Some areas of maths are only covered by year 6 this term (specifically ratio and algebra). During this time, year 5 will consolidate and revise what they have learned so far, allowing more time to master any areas that may need review.

**English:** Learning will centre on our class novel "Secrets of a Sun King" - a novel set between Ancient Egypt and the modern day. This fits well with our history topic, and the two will inspire a range of different writing genres including a newspaper report, formal letter and non-fiction piece. We will also cover poetry, using both Ancient Egypt and the changing seasons for inspiration. **SPaG** remains embedded into our curriculum throughout, with more explicit teaching sessions as appropriate.



**Guided Reading:** The arrangements for guided reading remain the same, with Mrs Farraday teaching year 6 and Mr Dean teaching year 5. Year 5 continue to explore short novels and develop their written responses to questions, ensuring that evidence from the text is given. Year 6 will continue to read 'Holes' by Louis Sachar as well as making a start on looking at some SATS past papers and developing some test technique and more detailed written responses to a range of texts.

**Science:** Building on the work completed last term on forces, we begin our science unit by studying simple machines, including pulleys, levers and gears. Following this, we study the properties and uses of different materials. This learning has applications to our studies in History, as we examine how the Ancient Egyptians would have used simple machines to help them build great things, and the choices that would have been made about the materials they were built from.

**History:** As you may have guessed, our history topic this term is Ancient Egypt. We begin with a wide focus, looking at three early civilizations: the Indus Valley, the Shang Dynasty and Ancient Sumer and considering what allowed these groups of people to flourish. Our learning is then applied to the Ancient Egyptians as we focus in depth on their achievements and way of life.

**Art:** This term two different techniques are used to imitate different styles of work. First, we use the batik printing method to create African-inspired motifs. In the second half of the term, we move on to using paint to create landscapes inspired by local artists Libby Edmondson and Heaton Cooper.

**Music** has two units this term: 'You've got a friend in me' and "Inspirational Women in Music". We continue to explore a range of different musical styles as well as learning to play along with percussion instruments.

**P.E.** continues to cover two units in each half term. In the first half-term, gymnastics and lacrosse are the focus, with tri-golf and personal fitness in the second.

**R.E.:** Our Christian value for the Spring term is Thankfulness. In R.E. lessons we will delve deeper into the meaning and significance of Ascension and Pentecost and deepen our understanding of Christian beliefs about the nature and character of God.

**SCARF:** The themes for SCARF this term are 'Valuing Difference' and 'Being my Best'. We start by developing our understanding of the importance of tolerance and respect for others. In the second half of the term we focus on ourselves as individuals: the skills and qualities which make us unique. During the second half of the term we also study basic first aid skills.

**Computing** will have a focus on coding – particularly the use of selection in computing algorithms. As well as coding programs of our own, we will explore the use of physical computing devices.

**French:** We begin revising French words for countries and the weather, before applying this knowledge to learning about holidays and describing a holiday using French vocabulary.