



Year 4 - Spring 1

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and have enjoyed the festive period. Following an inspiring INSET day, we will be continuing to focus on developing a growth mindset culture across the school community. We will be encouraging children to think about the *process* of learning and celebrating skills such as perseverance, resilience, effort, originality and creativity. Hopefully, you will hear your children using this vocabulary and see developments in their independence and approach to working on challenges - their learning behaviours.

Maths

This term we will continue with multiplication and then moving onto measurement (area) and fractions. The key skills that we are focussing on are:

- Multiplying 3 numbers
- Understanding factor pairs
- Using efficient multiplication methods
- Being able to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1
- Being able to divide 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1
- Understanding that area of a square or rectangle is length multiplied by width and using this to solve problems
- Being able to find equivalent fractions

English

We will be looking to link our writing to our topic of Ancient Egypt. Our letter writing unit will be based on the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb and for instructions we'll be looking into the process of mummification.

The key skills that we are focussing on this term are:

- Using formal language as well as technical vocabulary
- Using a variety of conjunctions to connect ideas e.g. but, so, when, while
- Varying sentence openers and structure.

To help the children with their writing, get those recipe books out and let them make you something. If you've got any letters, let them have a read.

Topic

We'll be travelling back in time to study Ancient Egypt. During the topic, we will be looking at who the Egyptians were and why they are still remembered today. We will study the pharaohs, pyramids, gods and the process of mummification.

Science

In science this term we are learning about human teeth and digestion.

During our learning we will:

- Identify the functions of different types of teeth
- Explore how teeth aid the process of digestion
- Understand how digestion works.

Broad and Balanced Curriculum

This term, we have many other exciting activities. In Art we will be painting our own Egyptian figures and creating our own death masks. In RE we will study the telling of stories and how they guide us. In PE, we'll continue team games and will also be having a go at Pilates.

Communication

We always try our best to ensure that all parents are informed about school events. This will be through regular school newsletters and posts on the school website. Please check emails and the school website regularly.



Physical Education

This term, Year 4 are developing skills in ball games and pilates.

Please ensure that children have their PE kit in school throughout the term. They need:

- ⇒ Blue shorts
- ⇒ White T-shirt
- ⇒ Plimsolls
- ⇒ Blue or grey track suit for outdoor PE
- ⇒ Trainers for outdoor PE

Remember that due to health and safety guidance, earrings need to be removed for PE lessons. If your child has recently had their ears pierced then they will have to sit out of PE until they are able to take them out.

Children should know how to take out their earrings or avoid wearing them on PE days.

Important Dates

Wednesday 24th January,
6:30pm– Parent Reading
Workshop

Tuesday 20th February—Trip
to the British Museum

Friday 9th February—End of
half term

Homework

There was wonderful homework produced last term including

Dionne's classification of animals and Morgan's creative recipe for being a good Samaritan.

This half term children are expected to complete 5 tasks from the homework grid. It is due to be handed in on

Tuesday 6th February.

Children should be spending 30 minutes a week on their homework tasks, including their times table practice.

If your child is finding tasks tricky, then please come to speak to us.

EGYPTIAN DAY

On Thursday 8 February we will be having Ancient Egyptian day where the children can come to school dressed up in Ancient Egyptian costumes. They will take part in fun activities throughout the day based on our topic.

To help with the buying of food please could you donate 50p-£1.

If there are any allergies or food requirements, please let us know.

Mathletics and Spellodrome

Please continue to encourage your child to use their accounts to practise their Maths and English skills (preferably 3 times a week) If they need a reminder about their password then please do ask.

Reading

The children have been very excited about the new reading scheme and we are looking forward to listening to them read and have discussions.

Please can you ensure that they are reading their book every day for 15 minutes and please comment in their reading journals. We endeavour to check the reading journals each week to ensure children are reading regularly.

We are passionate about reading for pleasure at Ellingham so please also write in your child's reading record when they have read other text e.g. library books, brochures, comics, magazines etc.

TIMES TABLE CHALLENGE

We will be continuing times table quizzes. Please continue to support your child with practising their test/target at home. They will be tested on Friday. Children who get 80% or more correct will get a star on the class chart and progress to the next target.