



Year 4 News

Spring 1

January 2025



We hope you all had fantastic festive break and are ready for our next busy, new term filled with more leaning challenges and fun. A reminder that In Harmony sessions are on a Wednesday afternoon and Thursdays (PPA), both classes will be covered by James Hogan who will deliver PE and a member of staff who will deliver our weekly Religious Education session.

Knowing right from wrong

Our focus book this half term is Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge. This is a fantastic fiction text which will introduce the children to all things space related! In English we will be using our class text to write to entertain and persuade. We will be writing a persuasive letter and also a narrative. During our whole class reading sessions we will use a range of texts to support our development of the VIPERS reading skills.

In Maths we will still be focusing on multiplication and division but will be extending this to include formal written methods for both. Also, we will look at decimals. We will continue to develop number fact fluency with recalling the 6,7,9,11 and 12 times tables in preparation for our multiplication check in June 2025.

Our Science lessons will focus on the solar system. We will be looking at the shapes and movements of planets and also exploring day and night. We will be investigating key facts about the sun and also exploring our solar system.

In RE we will be learning to answer the enquiry question: 'What might Sanatanis learn from the story of Rama and Sita?' Children will be focusing on Hinduism for their topic this half term and will work exploring this key question.

In History we will be learning all about the space race and who the main participants were. We will research the lives of those involved in the space race and investigate how space exploration has expanded our knowledge of the universe. We will focus on inspirational characters who have developed space technology such as Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughn.

In Music we will continue to work with the Music Hub to learn to play trumpets and trombones. **Please ensure all instruments arrive back at school on a Monday each week so that they are ready for our session on a Wednesday.**

During Computing sessions, we will be focusing on programming. We are going to be learning that accuracy in programming is important and also learning how text-based language is used in programming. Children will create programmes by planning, modifying and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will be using Logo to do this.

REMINDERS

PE will be on Thursday afternoon.
Please remember to come to school in your PE kit including suitable footwear such as trainers in case we are outside.

(Plain T-shirt, plain Joggers and school cardigan/jumper).

Reading

Please continue to read at home as this is so important and helps children develop skills and a love of books.

Please bring reading books and diaries to school **every day**.

Look at **MyMaths** and Times Tables Rockstars for challenges which link to our work in class and revise things done before.

Please ensure you are looking on Spelling Shed each week for your weekly spelling pattern and key words.

Other key information and key dates for your diary:

Lunar New Year – 29th January

Viking Trip 31st January

Parents Evening – 4th and 5th February

NSPCC Number day – 7th February

Online safety week – 10th February

Last day of term – 14th February

Half term – 17th to 21st February

In PE we will be learning how to perform dances using a range of movement patterns. We will also be understanding how to compare performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve our personal best.

In JIGSAW, our theme for the half term is 'Dreams and goals'. This half term we will be learning to explain some of our hopes and dreams, to understand that sometimes hopes and dreams do not come true and that this can hurt and also to know that reflecting on positive and happy experiences can help me to counteract disappointment.

What can you do to support your child's learning?

- 1) Listen to them read. Encourage them to use the VIPERS reading dogs when discussing the books they have read. Log their reading in their reading diary.
- 2) Encourage them to use My Maths (and look at place value).
- 3) Help your child continue to learn their times tables. Using Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS)
- 4) Log into Spelling Shed and practice the weekly spellings.
 - ❖ Don't forget the Oxford Owl website has some great online reading activities and books to share.
 - ❖ Spelling lists are on Spelling Shed. Please help your child practice these as it really helps them become more confident with their reading and writing.

Reading Dogs



Vocabulary Vince

Draw upon knowledge of vocabulary in order to understand the text.

What does the word mean in this sentence?

- Find and copy a word which means
- What does this word or phrase tell you about
- Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why?
- Which of the words best describes the character/setting/mood etc?
- Can you think of any other words the author could have used to describe this?
- Why do you think is repeated in this section?
- What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which word tells you that....?
- Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood?
- Find one word in the text which means.....
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to.....
- Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that.....

Thank you
Jane Loughran & Natalia Birch

Contacting the year 4 team

We are at the classroom door at drop off and pick up times and are always happy to say hello or have a quick chat. Call the office to pass on a message or ask for a call back. 0115 9152953

Email: year4@dovecote.nottingham.sch.uk

Don't forget to download the MavellousMe app and keep an eye on the website and Facebook page, for up-to-date information and key messages.

