

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school, I hope you have all had a great Summer and are glad to be back at school. Please read the newsletter carefully for an update on what is coming up this term.



Literacy

As authors, we will be writing our very own diaries. We will read an alternative version of Cinderella linked to our topic of the Egyptians. During each unit we'll look carefully at the structure, vocabulary and grammar and use our knowledge to create our own similar pieces of work. If you would like to share your own favourite stories with us then please bring them in!

During our daily guided reading lessons, we will be focusing on improving our understanding of what we read. This will include summarising; inferring meaning and characters' feelings; making predictions; and discussing how different language, structure and presentation choices contribute to meaning and capture the reader's interest. Our first class book will be *Skeleton Keys*, the Unimaginary friend, written by Guy Bass. There are a couple of books in this series if the children enjoy reading in class. Please do not read this at home.

To keep developing our reading skills and love of reading, it is important to **read at home** regularly. Research shows that 15 minutes reading per day can equate to reading one million words per year. The children have the choice to select books from our class library, we have a signing in and out system, please ask them about the books they are reading in class.

Spellings will be given out weekly on a Monday and handwriting sessions will take place twice a week.

Mathematics

We will start off by looking at place value, including comparing and ordering numbers, making number patterns, and rounding numbers. Once we have mastered this, we will move on to addition and subtraction - using both written methods and mental strategies. After half term, we'll be focussing on multiplication and division. If you would like any extra information on maths and how we teach it in our class, please send me an email.

All the way through our maths learning we will be applying our learning to solving real life problems. Any time you are able to practise your child's times tables with them will also help them with their fluency - which will help in lots of different areas of maths. This term we'll be focusing on revising and mastering our 3, 4 and 5 times tables and then moving on to our 6, 10 and 11 times tables.

At home, the children can continue to log into Times Tables Rock Stars to continue to improve their fluency.

Science

As scientists, we will be investigating states of matter in a practical way, by looking at the differences between solids, liquids, and gases, as well as the water cycle. At home, I would recommend looking up the topic on KS2 BBC Bitesize, the website has some excellent resources and games for the children to play. After half term, we will be exploring how electricity works, circuits and symbols.

Art

As artists the children will explore print making. We will learn how printing has developed throughout history through mark marking, newspaper printing and learn some historical techniques. The children will also design and

create their own printing plates. For this topic, we will be using ink and different varieties of paint. Please ensure your child has an apron or an old t-shirt in school by new week.

History

As historians, we will be finding out about who the Ancient Egyptians were, how they lived, what rituals they had and what it was like to live in Ancient Egypt. In class, we will discuss what we would like to learn about this ancient civilization. We also have plenty of reading material in class, based on the Ancient Egyptians.

PSHE / RE

We will begin this term with R.E. Our main focus will be on food and fasting in various different religions. The children will learn about how food is special to people, how food is important in festivals and where certain foods come from in different parts of the world. We will also continue to work on our PSHE scheme entitled Jigsaw, our first topic is all about 'being me in my world'. Jigsaw: Jaz will help us to achieve our PSHE goals this year.

French

During our French lessons, we shall be practising key vocabulary, focusing on 'ourselves' and 'getting to know you'. The majority of these lessons will be speaking and listening and take place each Monday.

PE

Our PE days for Year 4 are Wednesday and Thursday, so children will need to come to school in their PE kit on those days. This half term, we will work on improving our fitness skills with circuit training, as well as building our teamwork skills.

We are really pleased to welcome our new P.E coach Mr Cox, to Samares school. He will teach the children physical literacy skills every Thursday. Make sure to ask your children all about the fun and exciting sessions.

Music

Mrs Lawrence will continue to inspire us with her weekly music lessons. Some of the songs our class will learn will link to our history topic, I know the children will be excited to learn again with Mrs Lawrence each Monday.

Computing

During the first term we will focus on computing systems and how the internet works. The children will be using both the laptops and iPad's to help support them. If you require any copies of logons to J2E or TTRockstars, please email me and I can provide this.

General Information

I hope this gives you an insight into what life and learning in Year 4 will be like. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I will be by the gate at the end of each school day, but you can also email me to arrange a time to meet.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Boyle

r.boyle@samares.sch.je