Year 4 Newsletter

Welcome back, Year 4! We hope you all had a lovely Half-Term. The children have all made a flying start to Term 2 and are building on all the new learning habits and strategies that we began in the Autumn. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to help. Mr. A Shepherd Mrs. S. Werner (the Y4 Team!)
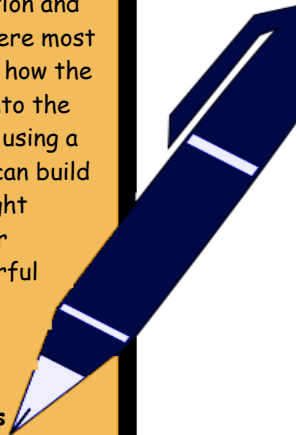
ENGLISH

This term we will start by reading and analysing the text The Queen of Darkness by Tony Bradman. We will explore how details in a historical fiction text can inform readers of what life was like in a particular era.

We will zoom in on why/how the introduction and build-up parts of the plot are usually where most characters are introduced (recap). Also, how the introduction needs to hook the reader into the story and one way this can be done is by using a dramatic opening event. Finally, how we can build suspense by: -hinting that something might happen -sudden impact short sentence or sequence of short sentences-using powerful verbs

Key vocabulary:
-Powerful verbs
-Adverbial phrases, fronted adverbials
-Preposition phrases to expand noun phrases

Mathematics

In Term 2, we will begin by looking at Addition/Subtraction. In this block, we will include 4-digit numbers. In this small step, the pupils add/subtract 3- or 4-digit numbers with exchanges, using concrete resources as well as the formal written method. Next, we look at Area. Building on previous steps, the children compare the areas of rectilinear shapes where the same size square has been used. Lastly, Multiplication/Division. Pupils are introduced to the idea of the associative law (but do not need to know it by name), which focuses on the fact that it does not matter how they group the numbers when they multiply. For example, $4 \times 5 \times 2 = (4 \times 5) \times 2 = 20 \times 2 = 40$ or $4 \times (5 \times 2) = 4 \times 10 = 40$

Key vocabulary
Addition, Subtraction, Equals, Column Method, Efficient, Rounding, Exchange, Area, 2-D, Perpendicular, Right Angles, Equal Groups, Arrays, Product, Commutative, Grouping, Sharing, Inverse, Distributive Law,
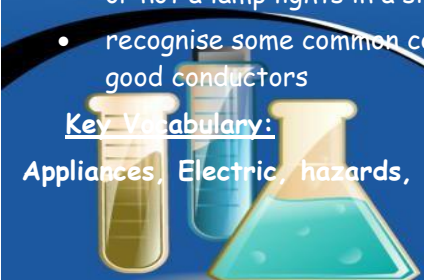
SCIENCE

Term 2 - Electricity

Enquiry Question: What is a series circuit?

- identify common appliances that run on electricity
- construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery
- recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
- recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

Key Vocabulary:

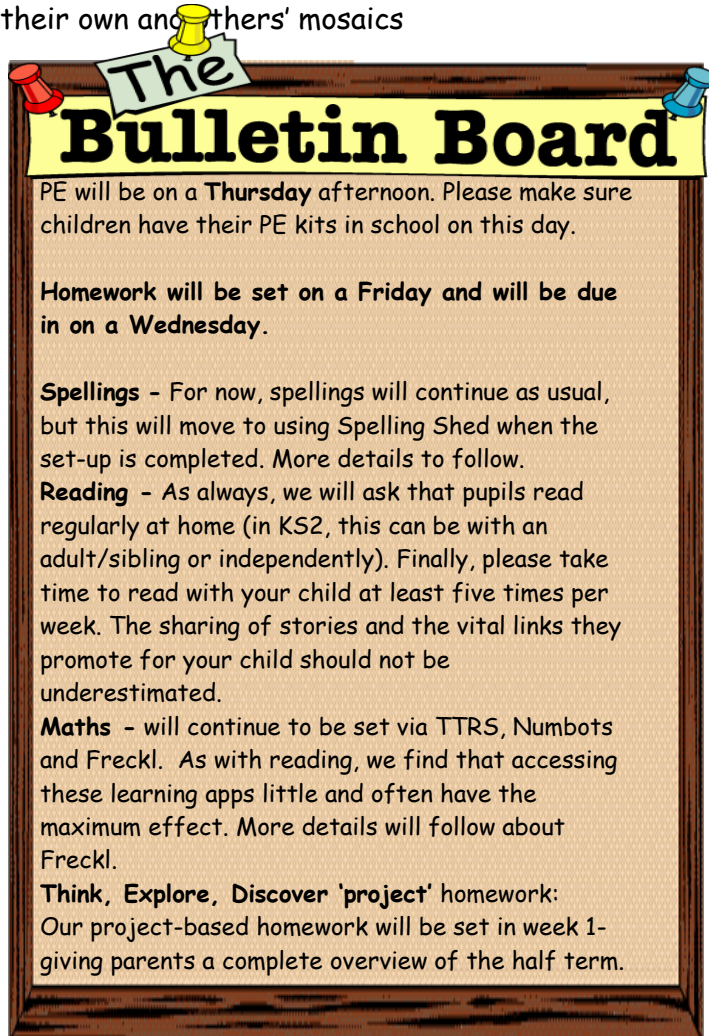Appliances, Electric, hazards, Circuits, Bulbs, Components, Buzzer, Switch, Electrons

Other Curriculum Areas

PE – In PE this term, we will be focusing on Gymnastics. The children will perform skills more accurately and consistently and devise and perform a gymnastic sequence, showing a clear beginning, middle, and end.

PSHE – In PSHE this term, our topic is 'How can we all feel included?' Pupils will be able to describe the difference between banter and bullying. Also, pupils will be able to apply their knowledge of bullying to understand the importance of and how to respond to bullying and hurtful behaviour.

Computing – In computing this term, we will be looking at 'Computing systems and networks – We will identify the input and output devices required to work with sound digitally; align, trim and adjust the volume of different tracks in an audio recording; recognise that digital audio has ownership and the copyright implications.

Art – In Art this term, we will be looking at 'What are mosaics and how are they created?'. The children will be able to explore what mosaics are and know about their historical and cultural significance and create mosaics using paper and other recycled materials. Students will be able to evaluate and appraise their own and others' mosaics

The Bulletin Board

PE will be on a **Thursday** afternoon. Please make sure children have their PE kits in school on this day.

Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday.

Spellings - For now, spellings will continue as usual, but this will move to using Spelling Shed when the set-up is completed. More details to follow.

Reading - As always, we will ask that pupils read regularly at home (in KS2, this can be with an adult/sibling or independently). Finally, please take time to read with your child at least five times per week. The sharing of stories and the vital links they promote for your child should not be underestimated.

Maths - will continue to be set via TTRS, Numbots and Freckl. As with reading, we find that accessing these learning apps little and often have the maximum effect. More details will follow about Freckl.

Think, Explore, Discover 'project' homework: Our project-based homework will be set in week 1- giving parents a complete overview of the half term.

IMPORTANT DATES

E-safety link:
http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/

USEFUL LINKS