



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn
Term

Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a wonderful break and are ready to get back to some new and exciting challenges! This year, Mrs Cullen and I are very excited for what is in store.

This year, our first topic in Year 4 is Shakespeare! It has been handpicked due to a special event Year 4 get to participate in. The topic lends itself to history activities, but will also be a base for our Geography, Art and Design and of course, drama performances. Additionally, if you have any items or knowledge relevant to this topic, please let me know.

School Shakespeare Foundation

As you may already know, when in Year 4, children take part in a Shakespeare performance. This year, our play is Twelfth Night! The performance is at the **Gala Theatre in Durham** on **6th November at 7pm**. Tickets can be purchased for this event on 10th September from the Gala box office. As part of the scheme, we will also be taking part in a Cast Workshop. This will also be held at the **Gala** on **10th October**. This ends at **5pm** therefore there will be a late pick up arrangement. Further details and parental permission will be on ParentMail closer to the time.



Swimming Time!

It is swimming time again! On **Fridays**, children will need a **swimming kit including a swimming hat**. Hats can be purchased from school for £1. If your child wears earrings, they will need to be removed before school. Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit on this day. This is particularly important as we don't want to waste this brilliant opportunity!



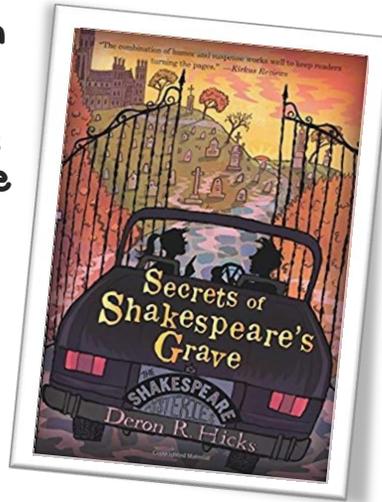
Our Timetable

During afternoons, we will be spending a lot of time practising our Shakespeare performance of Twelfth Night, but we have so much more going on too. On Wednesdays, we will have special music lessons with Miss Robinson. Science lessons will focus on the topic of Sound and will be on Thursdays. Every other Friday, we will be having Spanish lessons with Mr Matias.

Secrets of Shakespeare's Grave

I cannot wait to start reading this book with Year 4. Written by Deron Hicks, this modern day treasure search is exciting from start to finish. It has a brilliant main character, who demonstrates age does not stop her from being a fantastic detective as she tries to save her family's business from an unknown enemy.

The book lends itself brilliantly to both Writing and Reading lessons and therefore we will be using it as inspiration throughout the term. It has some links to Shakespeare as the title would suggest, but it is also a very different story and genre to Twelfth Night - the play we will be performing at the Gala. This means Year 4 get two sources of inspiration this year!



Homework

If Year 4 **read four times a week and practise their times tables four times a week**, they will receive **£1 to spend at Waterstones and one token to spend in the rewards shop!**

With regards to spelling homework, **Week one** is going to be **investigation week**. Year 4 will be given a pattern and they will need to investigate all the words they can that follow this pattern.

Week Two will be **skills week**. Year 4 will be **given some words that fit into the pattern to practise**. They may have already practised these during week one, however I will have selected the words I find most important for them to know.

Additionally, **'tricky' words** will be given to Year 4 each week. These are words that may not fit into patterns, but they are commonly used or misspelt words that need practise.

To achieve rewards for spelling, the correct activities will need to be completed during the correct week. Additionally, the **presentation** and **quantity** will be considered when marking the activities. All information can be found in the front of the spelling books and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

PE Days

This term, not only will we be going swimming, we will also be focusing on Three Touch Ball in PE on Wednesdays. Additionally, every Thursday morning we also use our very own Little Gym for half an hour of fitness. We can use the machines and complete floor exercises.

Water bottles

Please ensure children come with a full water bottle each day. I do have some spare plastic cups. However, these cannot be reused. I will encourage children to take them home each night to try to prevent winter colds and flu.

Names on Everything!

Can we please ask you to put your child's name on their clothes, including swim kit, so we can easily identify the owner if they are left behind?

Thank you!

