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'Being Better Every Day'

Friday 6th September 2024

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Term 1

We are excited to share our first curriculum newsletter of the school year. We are looking forward to learning all about the Ancient Egyptian Civilization this Term, before moving onto other units later on in the year. It has been so good to be able to welcome to the children back into school and also, to witness the children's enthusiasm towards their learning

In **Term 1**, our unit title is **'Walk like an Egyptian'**. There is a big focus on **History** in this unit.

Let's travel back 5000 years, to the dusty realms of Ancient Egypt. Cruise along the Nile, entering a world of mysteries and curses, mummies and kings. We'll find out about life on the river's fertile banks, unravel the secrets of ancient tombs, using historical sources and ancient artefacts and find out about powerful pharaohs and gods. We'll also be taking part in some real life mummifications (don't worry, we'll use tomato flesh, not human) in preparing a body for its journey into the afterlife. Are you ready to open the doorway to Ancient Egypt? Who knows what treasures you will find?

During this unit, your child will attempt to answer the essential question:

**'Many people think of Ancient Egypt as fascinating.
Why?'**



(We have attached a 'Knowledge Organiser' for this unit, providing an overview of the topic; this should be a useful resource for pupils and parents.)

Curriculum Project

For each unit, we would love your child to complete a home-learning project. Some ideas for this unit are:

- An Egyptian Pharaoh Headdress or death mask.
- Create scrapbook about Ancient Egypt (including facts and photos)
- A fact-file about a famous Pharaoh (for example Tutankhamun!)
- A pyramid building creation – cardboard, papier-mâché, lego
- An Egyptian painting

Or your child may wish to come up with their own idea for a home learning project.

(Below are some additional ideas)



Please bring any projects into school in the w/b 21st October 2024.

We have also included a list of websites you could explore at home to help your child with their learning:

Useful Websites:

<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/tutankhamen>

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/phar/hd_phar.htm

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/pharaohs/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb>

https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_egypt.php

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5J37ufZ3jA> - how to make a pyramid

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skI9cQVEj8> - how to make a headdress

Reading

The children will continue 'Destination Reader' work in class. Our next shared book will be 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. Please continue to encourage daily reading and home reading records can be brought in and will be signed once a week. Reading is the single most important skill that children will learn and we expect every child to read at home every day. In Year 4, we expect every child to read with an adult for a minimum of **20 minutes** every day. Reading takes on many forms and can take place just about anywhere, including the reading of labels and signs, and in magazines and comics. Parents and carers should record the daily reading activity in your child's reading record.

Homework

Additionally, we would like the children to be practising their times tables every day for at least **20 minutes**. The children all have an individual account for **Times Table Rock Stars** which they

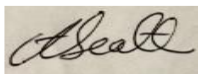
can use to support their learning. The aim is for our Year 4 children to know their times tables really well by the end of the school year. Some children are doing lots of practice on times tables rock stars and it is making a real difference to their speed of recall. A homework grid of optional extra activities will also be sent home.

PE

This term, our PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday** afternoons. Your child should **wear** their PE kit to school on this day. As our lessons will be outside, please ensure your child has their Oakwood PE kit and trainers for the lessons.

We hope your child will enjoy their first term in Year 4!

Yours sincerely,



Anna Seath

Year 4 Class Teacher

KNOWLEDGE – EQUALITY – DETERMINATION – ACHIEVEMENT