

Great Whelnetham  
Church of England Primary School  
*By growing together, we become the best we can be'*

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17th January 2020

**Curriculum Letter Spring Term 2020**

Dear Families and Carers,

We hope your new year has started successfully. This letter sets out the subject areas we will be covering this term in Year 4.

**Maths**

In Maths we have started to teach different division methods to the children. We will extend this to finding fractions and working with decimal numbers, including measures. As usual, our focus will be developing mathematical skills in fluency, reasoning and problem solving across each of these mathematical strands.

We continue to strengthen children's recall of multiplication facts and associated division facts using Times Tables Rock Stars and a variety of other resources to develop speed. The children all have logins to access Rock Stars at home, either on a tablet, computer or laptop. It is a really engaging way to practise and improve their fluency and speed. The leaderboard encourages some healthy competition too.

**Literacy**

We have begun Literacy lessons with a fiction unit reading, 'How to Train your Dragon' as a stimulus for writing fantasy stories. We will also use the text for guided reading comprehension with a focus on developing children's inference skills to answer more complex questions. Our non-fiction focus is report writing and we will use learning about The War of the Roses and The Tudors (our History and Geography topics this term) to make cross-curricular links with our writing and reading comprehension. We will go on to study different forms of poetry and persuasive writing.

**History and Geography**

In studying The War of the Roses, the children will learn about the effects of families at war on the monarchy. Learning about The Tudors and early exploration will develop children's knowledge and understanding of how people used to see the world and how and when that changed.

**Science**

Our Science topic this term is living things. The children will learn how living things can be scientifically classified and how changes in environment can endanger different species.

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School website: <http://www.greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk/website>

*Values for Life: Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Hope, Peace, Thankfulness, Creativity, Forgiveness, Humility and Justice.*

## **RE**

The children will learn how and why some Christians believe they are on a mission. They will later learn about the significance of Easter. They will then learn about Sikhism and associated beliefs.

## **French**

Children will extend their number vocabulary and ability to meet and greet people in French. They will then focus on asking about costs and how to make basic transactions.

## **Art and Design**

The children will use a variety of materials to draw, sketch and sculpt. They will use raising agents to make bread.

## **PE and Swimming**

The children will continue to have PE on Mondays and Fridays and will need a full PE kit to be in school on those days. They will also be swimming on Tuesday mornings when they can come into school wearing track suit bottoms and trainers to help them change quickly and easily. Where possible, children should not come into school wearing earrings on PE and swimming days, or be able to take their earrings out and kept safely.

## **Supporting your child's learning**

Please help to ensure that your child learns their tables up to x12. Practising using Times Tables Rock Stars is an ideal and enjoyable way for this to happen and they can do it using their logins which are stuck in their home school diaries. This has to happen frequently and repetitively to be successful. Those children who are already secure in their tables could focus on associated division facts and becoming faster with their recall. The children will be tested towards the end of the academic year as part of a national initiative to ensure that tables are known by all children in year 4.

We will continue to give out spellings on Friday and test children the following Friday. A Topic or Literacy home learning task will be given on Wednesday and should be handed in on the following Monday.

## **Reading**

Since the beginning of term, we have been focusing on the importance of regular reading, both in school and at home. We have focussed on choosing books which are appropriate to us as individuals, how choosing the right book helps enjoyment in reading and how regular reading at home can benefit our learning in all subjects. Other benefits we have discussed and are encouraging, include an increased breadth of vocabulary, pleasure in reading independently, a better understanding of other cultures and better general knowledge.

Please could you support your child in recording their home reading in their School Diary, and signing that you have seen it in the 'Home' section at the end of the week.

Please come and see us if you would like to discuss any part of the contents of this letter. We are looking forward to another successful term, working in partnership with yourselves.

Kind regards,

Ms Wallis and Mrs Lockwood

