

Keston Primary School and Nursery

Curriculum Information



Spring Term Year 4

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the Christmas Break. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term and we hope you find the following information useful.

English

We will be focusing on poetry, recounts and stories based on our current Explore and Discover topic of Egypt.

Throughout all of our English work we will have a focus on Grammar, Punctuation and Comprehension.

The following links could help you to build on your child's work in school in these areas.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/writing/vocabulary/play/>

<http://www.gynzy.com/teachers/publishers/language-arts/synonyms-and-antonyms/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en29punc-game-beat-the-clock-apostrophes>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en29punc-game-blown-away>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/quiz/q25067687>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/punctuation/play/

<http://www.savethecomma.com/game/>

Mathematics

This term we will be focusing on fractions and decimals.

The following links will help you when working on maths with your child at home - each of these links have several games.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/number/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/fractions-and-decimals>

In addition to these topics children will have a basic skills session where they will revise formal written methods and previous learning. There will also be a Mental Maths session (number stars) once a week.

At the end of Year 4, the children will be sitting a standardised, government Times Table test. The children will be tested up to and including the 12 x table, using a computer or tablet. The questions will be random, although there will be a heavy focus on the 6, 7 and 8 x table, and each question will be timed at six seconds.

Times Tables underpin a vast amount of areas in mathematics, right from primary to the end of secondary. We will be continuing to practice the Tables on a daily basis and you will notice relevant activities will be sent home, and your child may have a specific Times Table to work on.

We really appreciate the effort that goes into home learning and we look forward to your continued support with this essential skill.

There will be at least one test a week on their Times Tables and your child will be updated when they are ready to move on.

The following links may help you when working with your children on their Times Tables at home.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

http://www.mad4maths.com/multiplication_table_math_games/

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/ma13tabl-game-tables-grid-find>

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/>

<http://www.learnyourtables.co.uk/en/index2.htm>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Explore and Discover

This term in Explore and Discover we will be looking at a number of topics. In Science we will be looking at the changes of state (solids, liquids and gases) and the water cycle.

In Geography the children will be looking at different kinds of weather, the water cycle and rivers.

Our Computing lessons will look at meteorology – using productivity software – and creating and delivering presentations on a computer.

Our Art will combine with our History topic which will be Ancient Egypt.

RE

The RE for Spring will be Christianity (including parables and the Easter story).

PE

During this term we will be looking at dance. Children should have their P.E. kits in school every day and kit should be clearly named.

We will continue to swim on Thursday afternoons. Any help would be greatly appreciated please contact the office or your class representative if you are able to help.

General Information Including Homework

We will be going on our school trip to the British museum on Friday 1st March. A letter with more detail will be coming out shortly.

How can you help?

- Encourage your children to read as much as possible and ask them questions to check they understand what they are reading. The children's new planners have useful questions to check their understanding of a text.
- We have a recommended reading list for Year 4 and if you would like any help choosing a book for your child please ask us.
- Practise times tables with your child – see above.
- Take your child to the library to find books about the topics we will be covering.

Continuing on from the first term, homework will be in either reading comprehension, grammar or Maths. It will be sent out on a Thursday and is expected to be returned by the following Tuesday. Please support your child with their homework. If they find their homework difficult please encourage them to have a go and they can also attend **Homework club on a Monday lunchtime**. The children's planners have a homework guide which includes tips for helping with homework, a list of the Curriculum Spellings which children are expected to know by the end of Year 4, as well as useful information for Maths and English generally.

In addition, spelling homework will be sent out on Monday following the Schofield and Sims books and will be tested the following Monday. There will be additional words to be learnt following the Year 4 common exception words. Please encourage and support your child with learning these spellings and rules. Please return the homework on the following Tuesday.

We look forward to continuing to work with you,

Mr Andreotti, Mrs Seward and Mrs Goulden.