

# CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

## YEAR 4 SPRING TERM 2023

### **WELCOME BACK**

We are delighted to welcome our Year 4 classes back from their Christmas holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break and managed to spend time with your families. As ever, we continue to strive for excellence through our learning and our contribution to school life. We look forward to an exciting and busy term ahead!

### **ENGLISH**

This term, we are linking our writing focus to our Anglo-Saxon history topic. We will be writing a character flaw tale using *Anglo-Saxon Boy*, by Tony Bradman as our stimulus. We have started to read this with the children and most are already hooked!

Our non-fiction based learning will be based on information texts and includes writing a guide to Anglo-Saxon artefacts. Reading a variety of texts will form an integral part of our English lessons. We will also continue to make full use of the school library.

### **MATHEMATICS**

In maths we follow the Maths No Problem curriculum, which is a 'Maths for mastery approach to teaching maths'. Through this the children will be developing fluency (quick and accurate arithmetic skills) with number and applying appropriate strategies to support reasoning and solving real life problems. It would be helpful if children were encouraged to apply their maths at home, e.g. telling the time, working out change when shopping, measuring amounts for baking, etc.

Practising times tables is incredibly important and the children will be tested on all times tables facts in the summer term. Please continue to encourage the use of Times Tables Rock Stars— your children should be spending at least 20 minutes a week at home on the programme. We would also like to ask for your support in helping your children access their doodle maths learning—we encourage a 'little and often' approach to keep them in the green zone. This programme will help them plug any gaps they may have and to extend their knowledge by applying known concepts to different situations.

### **COMPUTING**

This term we will be learning to use Excel. We will start by exploring how to populate cells and use cell grid references. After that, will then learn how to create tables and charts from collected data.

### **SCIENCE**

We will begin this year with the Science topic of Animals and their Skeletons. We will be thinking about the functions of various bones in the body and what helps them to move. We will also work scientifically to investigate whether bone size differs between male and females.

### **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

This term, in addition to learning more vocabulary in context, we will be looking at Easter in Spain and France. We will also conduct some map work to locate and learn the names of important geographical locations in these countries.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

After half term, we will be focussing our learning on migration. We will develop our understanding of what migration is, why people migrate, how it affects people and places, what a refugee is and how climate change can affect migration.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

In Religion the children will focus on two units. The first will be looking at the relationship between the Jewish people and God. They will learn about the Jewish Passover. The second unit will be based on Christianity, focusing on Easter and the theme of forgiveness.

### **MUSIC**

In music this term, we will be looking programmatic music based on water. We will be improvising and composing our own music based on Saint Saen's Aquarium and Smetna's Vltava. We will be looking at collecting sounds that can be found at beaches and putting them together to create sound pictures.

## **HISTORY**

This term we will be learning about life as an Anglo-Saxon. We will investigate how Britain changed after the Romans left, what village life was like and who the key historical figures were during this period. We will also discover how the arrival of the Saxons affect our lives even today!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES**

Gym will be taught weekly. Please ensure that children come to school on the days they have Gym in their PE kit.

4AA Wednesday

4NS Tuesday

4JW Tuesday

4PG Thursday

Shoulder length hair should be tied back (boys and girls) and all jewellery removed. Newly pierced ears must be covered with tape supplied from home.

## **SWIMMING**

From 16th January, for 10 weeks, Year 4 will be swimming at Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre. A letter was sent home before Christmas, but feel free to message your class teacher if you have any questions.

## **ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

During the Spring Term we will carry out a Salvador Dali artist study, culminating in children creating their own Dali style painting. We will also be planning and creating Easter cards. After half term we will be fo-

## **HOME LEARNING**

In order to consolidate the children's learning, home learning tasks will be set each week. The children should be completing the following:

- Weekly spelling task handed out each Friday with words for children to learn (spelling tests will usually be the following Friday)
- Every child should read regularly at home – they should aim for an average of around 20 minutes at least 4 times per week. It will benefit your child greatly if they are encouraged to discuss the language, characters and plot lines when they read aloud at home. Please encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction.
- Please support your child in learning their multiplication and division facts as they will need to know up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. They are required to play Times Tables Rock Star as part of their homework at least twice a week for around 10 minutes per session with a home learning target of at least 150 points per week. They will also be encouraged to gain their multiplication and division badges.

Thank you for your support with this.

## **TRIPS AND VISITS**

We are really excited to announce that we will be taking Year 4 on an outdoor residential trip in the summer. This overnight event will be run by the Fresh Air Club. More details to follow soon.

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive term. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Serle

Interim Year Leader / Class 4NS

Mrs Arnold

Class 4AA

Miss Jackson

Class 4JW

Mr Gorsuch

Class 4PG