

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 4 SPRING TERM 2024

WELCOME BACK

We are thrilled to welcome our Year 4 students back from their Christmas holidays. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful break with your families—it already feels like a long time ago! As always, we are committed to achieving excellence in both learning and contributing to school life. Get ready for an exciting and busy term ahead!

ENGLISH

For the first half-term, our English focuses on "The Great Kapok Tree," intertwining with our rainforest geography unit. Students will write expressive diary entries, stepping into the shoes of a character from the book, narrating their rainforest adventures. Additionally, they'll master the art of setting descriptions, using rich language to transport readers to the mystical heart of the rainforest. This integrated approach aims to deepen comprehension, ignite creativity and connect literature with our exploration of rainforest geography.

For the second half-term, our writing focus will be linked to our Anglo-Saxon history topic. Drawing inspiration from Tony Bradman's "Anglo-Saxon Boy," we will engage the children in crafting character flaw tales. Our non-fiction learning will revolve around information texts, culminating in the creation of a guide to Anglo-Saxon artefacts. Reading a variety of texts remains central to our English lessons and the school library will continue to be a valuable resource.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, we follow the Maths No Problem curriculum, emphasizing a 'Maths for Mastery' approach. The children will be improving their fluency (quick and accurate arithmetic skills) in number and applying strategies for real-life problem-solving. Please encourage them to practice maths at home, for example through telling the time, calculating change while shopping and measuring ingredients for baking.

Times tables proficiency is crucial and the children will participate in the government's Multiplicaiton Table Check (MTC) in the summer term. Regular engagement with Times Tables Rock Stars is encouraged—the children are expected to complete at least 20 minutes a week on the programme. Please also support your child to access Doodle Maths. 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 are learning about photography editing, progressing from simple edits to more advanced skills like cloning and combining images. Each lesson builds on the last, leading to your child creating and evaluating their unique projects. We also emphasise the importance of ethical photo editing, instilling a sense of responsibility. If your child is eager to share their photography adventure at home, please let us know!

SCIENCE

This half-term in science, we'll be investigating states of matter. Our exploration begins by understanding the three fundamental states - solid, liquid, and gas. We'll engage in hands-on activities to observe and describe the properties and changes these states undergo. From melting ice to evaporation experiments, students will develop a deeper comprehension of the fascinating transformations matter can undergo. Our second science unit is The Water Cycle where we will explore the role of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle, connecting these processes to the broader understanding of states of matter.

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

This half term, our geography focus turns to the enchanting world of rainforests. We'll explore their locations, intricately linked to the concept of biomes and delve into the layers that make these ecosystems unique. As we unravel the richness of life within rainforests, we'll also address the threats they face, particularly deforestation.

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.

4AL Friday

4NS Tuesday

4NJ 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 8th 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. After half term we will be focusing on designing, cooking and evaluating savoury

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 Monday with words for children to learn (spelling tests will usually be the following Monday)
- 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 for a minimum of 20 minutes per week.
- We have invested in Doodle Maths, which is a programme that provides personalised learning aligned to the primary maths curriculum. Children are expected to use the programme 'little and often' to keep them in the 'green zone'. A few minutes daily works best.

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. The dates are 8-9th July (2 classes) and 10-11th July (other two classes). Please see separate communication for more details.

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

Mrs Serle

Year Leader / Class 4NS

Mrs Arnold / Miss Lattimore

Class 4AL

Miss Jackson

Class 4NJ

Mr Gorsuch

Class 4PG