



# What's happening in Class Four in spring 2025?



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! The team in Class Four send best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025. This term is the final preparation term for the Year 6 SATs, which are the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> May. The children are working hard and making great progress. Hopefully the children will not succumb to too many germs - as every day really does count.

Our history topic for this term is the Vikings. They will be learning about why they came to Britain and what impact their arrival has had on our history, for example place names.

In English lessons, we are currently reading and watching the short film *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. The children are learning to construct sentences using the imperative, subjunctive and passive forms and then applying these to write diary entries and a narrative. Then we will be reading *Beowulf*, by Michael Morpurgo.

In maths, we will be covering these topics:

- Percentages: finding percentages of amounts, knowing the equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages
- Angles: naming, estimating, constructing and measuring angles.
- Geometry: knowing properties of triangles and quadrilaterals.
- Reasoning about shapes: vertices, edges, angles.

All of these will include problem solving.

For this term in science, the children are learning life cycles and building on from previous knowledge about classification of living things. They will learn key vocabulary linked to life cycles such as mammal, mammary gland, offspring, monotreme, amphibian and metamorphosis. The class will explore the life cycle of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects and flowering plants. The children will explore the similarities and differences between the life cycles.

Class Four pupils will be developing handball and gymnastics skills in P.E. as well as developing fundamental skills such as agility and speed. **P.E. kit is to be worn to school every Monday and Wednesday.** Please make sure that correct P.E. kit is worn on these days.

This half term, we will be learning developing our composition skills using an online digital composition programme. 10 children (who put themselves forward for Choir) will be performing at the Braintree Sings Music Festival in March. They will be learning songs a variety of songs and learning to sing in harmony.

In DT, we will be applying our engineering skills and again entering the *If I were an Engineer* STEM competition. The children will be thinking about problems and inventing a solution to them. We will be listening to some interviews with engineers to help learn about what they do.

In computing, the children will explore the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. To begin with, the class will what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. They will then experiment with variables in an existing project and modify them, before applying their knowledge of variables and design to create and improve their own games.

PSHE lessons will be centred around being *newswise* where they will have the opportunity to explore the effect media can have on our behaviour, identity and wellbeing. By the end of the unit, the class will produce an audio news report about an issue relevant to their lives.

In R.E., our enquiry question is, 'How do beliefs shape identity for Muslims?' We are learning about the history of Islam, the main teachings and how Muslims practise their faith. We will be exploring the role of intention and what this means for Muslims.

In art, we are developing our water colour painting skills by painting landscapes. We are also going to be using mixed media to create artworks.

Dr Hill will teach Class Four French and History on a Thursday afternoon.

#### What can you do?

Class Dojo is our primary means of communication. We post information regularly, so please make sure you log in frequently. You can also message us through Class Dojo.

- **The single biggest difference your child can make to their learning is daily reading at home, ideally with a chat about what they have read afterwards, including discussing meanings of words. It is the expectation in Class Four that the children read at least 5 times a week.**
- Have your child practise their spelling words daily, 10 minutes is enough time. Make sure your child knows the meaning of the word and can put it into a sentence. There is no point in learning to spell words that they do not know the meanings of!
- Ask your child times table and related division facts to improve recall.
- Ensure your child completes their homework and help them if necessary. Homework goes out on Wednesday and is to be returned the following Monday.

If you have any queries or want to come in and discuss any aspect of your child's education, we are available to meet you after school or speak to you on the phone. Mrs Horsley or myself are more than happy to meet with you! 😊

Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mrs Horsley