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Dear Parents,

We hope you've all had a lovely holiday and that the children have enjoyed their first few days in Year 4. Our curriculum newsletter for Autumn Term is designed to give you a greater understanding of what your child will be learning in class over the coming weeks in order to help you support your child more effectively and enhance their learning at home.

Can you include the careers that will be explored and possibly ask for any parents that might have jobs that could link who would come in to speak to the children?

Maths

The primary focus this term will be on number and the number system. Children will be looking at negative numbers in a range of contexts and learning about place value in larger numbers. The children will be recapping the written methods for addition and subtraction and applying them to four digit numbers. As always, consolidation of times tables will form an ongoing focus for our daily mental maths sessions and any support you can offer your child at home in practising these will undoubtedly help to build their confidence and develop fluency in their maths skills. As always, times tables consolidation will form an ongoing focus for our daily mental maths sessions and any support you can offer your child at home in practising these will undoubtedly help to build their confidence and develop competence in their maths skills. Your child has access to online resources like Times Tables Rockstarz and Conquer Maths and these may be required to complete homework tasks. Please encourage your child to make use of these valuable resources as much as possible. If you do not have access to a computer at home your child will be given opportunities to take part in online activities at school. If you need another copy of the login for your child then please let me know.

English

The text that the children will be studying in this term will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children will be using this to create their own diary entry in role as a character from the book. We will also be using short clips and images from the film to help us write descriptive pieces of writing to create images for the reader.

Science

This unit is the first introduction to studying electricity in Key Stage 2. Children will learn about what electricity is and how it was discovered. They will identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children will construct circuits, start to create pictorial circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit.

PE

In PE children will be playing 'Three touch ball'. The core task involves children trying to score as many goals as possible by passing a ball at least three times before throwing it into a hoop. The pupils work in groups of four, with three attackers and one defender. They are given a choice of balls to play with and select one that they can all send and receive well



North East
Better Health
at Work Award
Bronze Award

(either by throwing and catching, kicking and stopping with their feet, or hitting and stopping with a stick). The three attackers start at the back line of their area and pass the ball between each other as they move towards the goals. Players must not move when they are holding the ball. After three passes the attackers can try to score a goal by throwing the ball so that it bounces inside either of the goals (hoops). The defender, who is not allowed to touch the attackers, tries to intercept the passes and stop the ball going into the goal.

DT

In DT pupils will use creativity and imagination, to design and make a bridge that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

History

Children will learn about the history of the local area of Durham and the way Prince Bishops shaped the North of England. They will also learn about how people lived.

RE

The children will be understanding how and why people who are religious show care for others. We will also be looking at why Christians call Jesus the light of the world.

PSHCE

The children will be learning about new beginnings and how we deal with any anxiety we may feel when embarking on something new. This will be linked to starting a new year in our new classes.

Computing

The children will be focusing on Computer Aided Design and will use Paint 3d to support them with the design of their bridge. They will work to develop 3d sketches of their bridge from their original sketches in Art and DT. Children will think carefully about the benefits of using such packages when designing and making structures like these. References will be made throughout to architecture and how architects develop their designs and plans.

Music

The children will be learning a range of different songs including Mamma Mia by ABBA and other timeless pop song from the 70s.

Reading books will be sent home daily with the children. Whilst we only ask children to complete a minimum of 5 minutes reading per night, the more reading you can do with your child at home the better.

I hope that all the children will have a fantastic first term and be enthused and engaged by the topics they will be learning about. As always, if you have any questions about the curriculum or if there's anything that you'd like support or advice with then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Hornsby
(Class Teacher)

Mrs. Griffin
(Teaching Assistants)