

Year 4 Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

English



Our class text this term is 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. This is a fantastic stimulus for various pieces of creative writing, with a focus on description, setting and character. The book also provides us with an opportunity to look at the structure of instructional texts as we create our own firework recipes. We will complete comprehension, punctuation and grammar exercises on a regular basis and consolidate knowledge and understanding of spelling patterns. Spellings will be sent home to revise as a weekly homework task. Girls will be practising joined, fluent handwriting in their written work and are encouraged to use blue ink pens from the start of term.

Mathematics

This term girls will be continuing to use the Inspire Maths scheme, which aims to help children develop mathematical language and reasoning through collaborative work. In order to develop a deeper understanding of key mathematical concepts, teaching will focus on a CPA (concrete-pictorial-abstract) approach. Topics covered this term will include place value using numbers up to 100 000, rounding, estimating, using factors and multiples, tables and graphs as well as fractions. We will also continue to practise the recall of multiplication facts, with the aid of the 'Times Tables Rockstars' app, and complete regular mathematical investigations.



Science

This term our topics are '**Forces**' and '**The Digestive System.**'

Forces – As well as learning how to plan and carry out fair tests, the girls will use their results to draw conclusions and make evaluations. The students will identify how to conduct appropriate experiments to test scientific questioning, for example how air resistance might slow down a moving object.

The Digestive System - This will include learning about important functions of the different organs linked to digestion. Girls will follow the journey food takes from mouth to...well, you can guess! We will also look at food chains and food webs to learn how different species obtain their energy.

History



Our new topic focuses on the Shang Dynasty. We will explore when and where the Shang dynasty was in existence and describing features of its location. By using archaeological evidence, we will be able to draw conclusions about what life was like for people living in the time including how the social hierarchy of the Shang dynasty was organised. Finally, we will move on to explain some of the religious beliefs and practices of the people from the Shang dynasty including the discovery, purpose and significance of oracle bones and Fu Hao.

Geography

We will be studying maps and developing our understanding and application of mapping skills. The girls will learn how to use atlases, read maps and learn more about the world around them. In order to link with our History studies, we will specifically focus on Mexico and make comparisons between this country and our own.



PSHE

This year, the girls will be introduced to Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE. Jigsaw is a progressive and spiral scheme of learning. This term our themes are 'Being in My World' and 'Celebrating Differences' (including anti-bullying).



Being in My World: the girls will talk about being part of a team.

They will talk about attitudes and actions and their effects on the

whole class. The girls will learn about Channing school and its community, who all the different people are and what their roles are. They will discuss democracy and link this to our School Council, what its purpose is and how it works. The girls will talk about group work, the different roles people can have, how to make positive contributions, how to make collective decisions and how to deal with conflict. They will also talk about considering other people's feelings.

Celebrating Differences: the girls will talk about judging people by their appearance, first impressions and what influences their thinking on what is normal. They will discuss bullying, including online bullying and what to do if they suspect or know that it is taking place. They will discuss the pressures of being a witness and why some people choose to join in or choose to not tell anyone about what they have seen. The girls will talk about their own uniqueness and what is special about themselves. They will talk about first impressions and when their own first impressions of someone have changed.

Art

Pupils will train their eyes to see like an artist, focusing on the shape and form of objects. They will learn how to draw more accurate representations of what they see by learning techniques to develop their hand-eye coordination. In the second half term, we will study the work of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.



DT

The pupils will learn different types of stitches for practical purposes, such as sewing on a button and joining pieces of fabric. They will also design and construct a wallet for a client using the sewing skills they have learnt.

RE

This term we will be studying various aspects of Hinduism, including symbols, gods and goddesses, the Hindu temple as well as how Hindus worship at home. Towards the end of the term, girls will begin to focus on Christmas. There will be particular emphasis on the theme 'accepting and rejecting'.



Drama

In Drama the girls will use a range of techniques to explore 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' in greater depth, with a particular focus on setting and character. In the second half of the term, they will start working towards their Spring Term Drama performance.

Computing

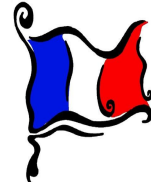
Our e-Safety focus this term will be the importance of rules to keep ourselves safe online, followed by robust discussions about how we can stand up to peer pressure. The girls will then develop their word

processing skills including editing, re-organising and presenting written work. The girls will also continue to develop their coding skills, manipulating sprites in order to achieve different outcomes as well as debugging lines of code.

Modern Languages



In Spanish, we will focus on shapes and colours and naming parts of the face and body. The girls will use the new language to design, describe and draw characters.



In French, our focus will be the alphabet and the spelling of words in general. The girls will explore vocabulary to introduce themselves confidently, whilst learning to ask and say where they live. New learning is acquired through memory games, songs and role-plays so that it is accessible and engaging.

PE

In Physical Education, the girls in Year 4 will complete units of work in badminton, basketball, unihoc and Swimming. In each lesson, they will participate in skills practices designed to develop various components of fitness such as speed, power, balance and coordination which will be required for all of the sports they play. The girls will also be discussing the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. In each lesson, the girls will be expected to understand and demonstrate the importance of a structured warm up and cool down, and know how to participate safely.

Music

The girls will begin an in depth project based on Benjamin Britten the 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra', learning about individual instruments and how they make up families of instruments. They will continue to learn many topic based songs. Please forgive us, if we start playing with cups at our dining tables; rhythm cups await!

Please do look carefully in the weekly Bulletin for updates relating to individual instrumental music lessons. Your daughter's Individual timetable will be emailed to you before lessons begin.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any concerns regarding your daughter.

We very much look forward to working with you and your daughters this year.

Miss Newell and Mr Rich
Year 4 Class Teachers