

Greenvale Primary School
Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter
Year 4 – Jays

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what we hope has been a relaxing break for all!

We are looking forward to the forthcoming term and hope that it will prove to be as exciting and enjoyable as the first. The children are settling back into school routines and are showing a great enthusiasm for the topics we shall be covering.

With the demanding curriculum changes and greater expectations for year 4 children it is important that they are encouraged, at home, to learn their times tables and corresponding division facts. It is also important to ensure your child is reading daily and completing homework tasks when set. Your support with this is appreciated and can certainly make a difference.

Below is a brief summary of the main topics we will be covering this term.

English	This term, we will be learning to use conjunctions to express both time and cause. Children will be writing recounts about an experience had. They will also be looking at different poetry forms and composing their own both individually and in groups. Children will be looking at stories from different cultures and comparing the lives of others with their own. By the end of the term children will have learnt to use different tenses correctly. They will have created an instructional leaflet and learnt to use both nouns and pronouns for clarity and to avoid repetition. We will also continue to work on different punctuation and grammar tasks to strengthen the written work that they produce.
Mathematics	Alongside our continual work on problem solving and multiplication facts, children will continue to reinforce their knowledge of addition and subtraction methods as well as other place value topics. Children will revisit their work on fractions and we will be starting a unit of work on decimals. We will also be converting lengths as well as looking at the area and perimeter of shapes.
IPC	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Different Places, Similar Lives</u></p> <p><u>In Society, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About ways of life in different countries • About festivals and celebrations in other countries <p><u>In Geography, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What different countries are like • How the climate affects the way people live • Where our food comes from • What people grow and eat in different countries • What products we make in our host country <p><u>In History, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About important people in the countries we are studying • About the way important people have changed lives • How to make a timeline for the host country

	<p><u>In Technology, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How people, food and water are transported • How wheels, levers, pulleys, slides and floats work <p style="text-align: center;"><u>How Humans Work</u></p> <p><u>In Science, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we need light in order to see • How we can make and hear sounds • How human teeth compare to animal teeth • How our body uses food and water • How our heart works to keep us alive • All about skeletons and muscles • About the human life cycle • Why exercise is good for us • How tobacco and alcohol harm the body • Which foods keep us healthy and why <p><u>In Technology, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to plan and prepare a healthy meal <p><u>In International, we'll be finding out:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About people's health problems
ICT	This term we will be learning how to use spreadsheets as well as completing a unit of work on e-safety.
RE	Children will be looking at Christianity and the early life of Jesus including baptism. We will be looking at the significance of Easter.
PSHE	Children will be looking at the impact of bullying and respecting the beliefs of others.
Spanish	Children will be learning basic conversational language and how to name and describe everyday objects.
Music	This term children will be learning seasonal songs linked to Spring and Easter. Children will also make links to their IPC topic by learning songs and listening to music from around the world.

Maths guidance

As already stated, the expectation set by the government is that, by the end of year 4, children should know all of their times tables up to and including the 12 times tables as well as their corresponding division facts. Your child will find accessing the maths curriculum difficult without securing this knowledge. I would therefore ask that you work with us and ensure that these are practised regularly at home.

Please continue to work on these at home with your children. This also applies to those who already have received their gold award.

Reading

It is expected that you will read with your children each night. Please discuss the book with them to help to develop their comprehension skills. Children will participate in guided reading sessions whilst at school and have the opportunity to change their home reading book as appropriate.

Homework

Spellings will be issued on a Wednesday and tested each Monday. Homework will also be set on a Wednesday and is expected to be completed and returned the following Monday.

PE

Children will have gymnastics with Chris on a Tuesday and they will have games on a Thursday afternoon with Mrs Greenwood. For both of these sessions long hair must be tied up and earrings must be removed

Soundstart

The children will be responsible for bringing their instruments and accompanying music books to our Soundstart lessons each Thursday.

Easter Assembly

The children have already been given scripts and been allocated roles. Please do practise their lines with them and ensure that the script is brought into school each day. The date for this highly anticipated event is Thursday 29th March at 9am.

Trips

You will be notified, in a timely fashion, about any forthcoming trips.

Things the Jays need

Please can you continue to send your children in with boxes of tissues for use within class.

If you have any queries, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us regarding these. We do understand that matters can arise that do need to be addressed before school, however if possible, please refrain from coming into the classroom before school, as this is a particularly busy time. For any issues at the start of the day, please speak to Mrs Catchpole in the playground. I am also available to discuss any issues after school and am contactable via email.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Mendez (smendez@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk)

Mrs Catchpole