

Greenvale Primary School
Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter
Year 4 – Jays

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new and exciting year.

This curriculum newsletter is written to provide parents with information about what your children will be learning during the term.

Below is a brief summary of the main topics that will be covered this term.

English	<p>This term, our English lessons will include Syllabic poetry (haikus, tankas and cinquains), fairytale and playscripts (with opportunities for the children to recreate their very own “twisted” fairytales as well as write realistic dialogue between characters), narrative fiction (modelling how a writer maintains suspense and excitement in a novel), information texts (linked to our IPC topic Different Places, Similar Lives) image poems (where we shall revisit use of metaphor, simile and personification by a selection of modern poets).</p> <p>All lessons will provide opportunities for extended writing, word level skills, comprehension, drama and speaking and listening. Guided and individual reading sessions will address reading skills such as decoding, understanding and interpreting texts, structure, inference and deduction as well writers’ styles.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Children will continue to practise their mental maths skills both formally and informally every day. They will have weekly times tables tests, on a Thursday afternoon, when they will aim for their next Sandpiper award. A number of children are now hoping to reach their gold award by the end of this term. Pupils will spend a large amount of their learning time on place value also, using number bonds to 100 and beyond, as well as recognising the movement of digits to the left and right when multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. They will also use estimation/rounding to help them with larger calculations involving 4 and 5 digit numbers. Children will practise recognising both digital and analogue time, as well as using timetables for practical problem solving. Pupils will use more than/less than symbols with 4 digit numbers, and recognise how knowledge of factors of a number help them understand how a number can be divided into a variety of fractions. Problem solving will be a regular part of the numeracy lessons, so that the children can apply their skills and knowledge in “real life” situation.</p>
IPC	<p>Scavengers and Settlers (Early Man)</p> <p>For our earliest ancestors, every day was a struggle for survival. The basic needs that we often take for granted were not a given for those early hunter-gatherer tribes. Humans had to constantly adapt and learn new skills in order to survive. This IPC unit allows pupils to discover how life was in prehistoric times through History, Art, Technology and International activities.</p> <p>In History, their Learning Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing the main events, dates and characteristics of the past societies they have studied • Being able to give some reasons for particular events and changes • Being able to gather information from simple sources

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to use their knowledge and understanding to answer simple questions about the past and about changes • Understanding that the past has been recorded in a variety of different ways <p>In Art, their Learning Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to choose materials and techniques which are appropriate to their task • Being able to explain their own work in terms of what they have done and why <p>In Technology, their Learning Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to make usable plans • Being able to design and make products to meet specific needs • Being able to use simple tools and equipment with some accuracy <p>In International, their Learning Goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to identify activities and cultures which are different from but equal to their own • Knowing about ways in which these similarities and differences affect the lives of people
ICT	We Are Co-Authors (Wiki creating). We hope to use this ICT unit to create wikis linked to the IPC topic of Scavengers and Settlers.
PSHE	Respect and Honesty (school values). The children will use drama, discussion and art to promote and explore these 2 core values of our school.
RE	The Catholic Church, Christianity in our Community
P.E	Trampolining (Tuesday), Swimming (Thursday) Games with Mrs Greenwood (Friday)
Spanish	Taught by Mrs Syredd. Plans include, numbers, colours, the family and parts of the body
Music	Taught by Mrs Francis. Music linked to IPC topic.

During the term, it is likely that at some point you will need to get in contact with a member of staff. We ask that you avoid the mornings as these are when we are usually busy preparing the classroom for the day ahead. However, if it is urgent, please do not hesitate to speak to the teaching assistant when they collect the class from the playground in the morning. Please also make use of the class wallets located directly outside the classroom to leave a note for a member of staff.

If you wish to speak with a member of staff about your child, the best time to do this is directly after school. We do however ask that you try to avoid a Wednesday as this our day for staff meetings. Finally, we do provide parents with our email addresses. Please feel free to write an email to us and we will do our best to get back to you promptly. Please note that emails may not necessarily be checked or responded to immediately but will be checked regularly during the week.

Uniform

At Greenvale, we have very high expectations for uniform. If for some reason your child is unable to wear an item of school uniform, please ensure that your child's class teacher is notified on that particular day.

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 can change their home reading book as appropriate. The children are encouraged to partake in our "9 Before 9" reading competition, details of which were given out on 8/9/2017.

Maths

By the end of Year 4, there is an expectation that children should know most if not all of their times tables by heart. Without an understanding of these key 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; I recommend 5 minutes practice per day helps hugely. This also applies to those who already have received their gold award.

Homework

Spellings will continue to 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.

Please note that it is the child's responsibility for this to be completed and that if there is ever any uncertainty, they need to speak to a member of staff so that we are able to discuss this with them.

Stars are rewarded for the effort that each child has put into their homework. At the end of each half term, the children with the highest number of stars will receive a certificate and will also be named on the school newsletter.

PE

In Year 4 in the Autumn term, Trampolining is on Tuesday, Swimming on Thursday and Games on Friday

For both of these sessions long hair must be tied up and earrings must be removed.

If for some reason your child is unable to partake in P.E, parents will have to provide a note explaining the reasons as to why.

Trips

There will be a visit to Selsdon library this half term as well as a planned in-school workshop linked to our IPC topic. Sound Start is scheduled to start on Thursday 21st. Please note that there may be an opportunity for parents to attend a visit along with the class at some point during the year. As this can often be quite popular, names will be placed into a hat and chosen by the children.

Volunteers

At Greenvale, we are incredibly lucky to have so many parents and volunteers who are able to give up so much time to help out in class. If you are able to help out in class, please get in contact via email so that a suitable time can be arranged.

Items needed

Please can you continue to send your children in with boxes of tissues for use within class. We would also appreciate any donations of recyclable items (toilet rolls, cereal boxes, yoghurt pots, shoe boxes, etc).

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Alex Bathmaker (abathmaker@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk)