

Halstow Primary School

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Executive Head
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Spring 2 Newsletter Year 4

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

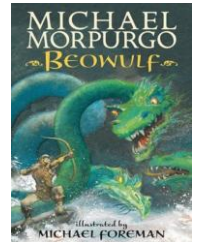
Maths

This term in Maths we are continuing our learning on fractions. We will then move on to discover how fractions relate to decimals. Children will learn to use mental strategies as well as formal written methods to support their calculations. Along the way, there will be problem solving opportunities and time for children to reason and reflect on the various strategies introduced over the term. We will also be practicing our times tables for our upcoming Multiplication Check in the summer term. Alongside this newsletter we are attaching White Rose practise booklets on fractions and decimals.



Literacy

Our Literacy unit this term centres around the ancient Anglo-Saxon poem, "Beowulf". Children will start off by writing a character description of the gruesome "Grendel" before branching into journalism, where they will examine the various features needed to write a newspaper article on Beowulf's journey to Denmark. Our unit will end with a class debate. Students will break into groups and plan and deliver a stirring debate on the motion, "Should Beowulf travel to Denmark to save the villagers from Grendel?"



Reading

After seeing how much the children were enjoying last term's reading on "Viking Boy" we've decided to bring it into this term as well. Students will continue reading about Gunnar and his vow for revenge against those who killed his family. They will encounter Viking kings, wondrous heroes and mythical beasts, and uncover the truth of Gunnar's destiny.

The Wider Curriculum

In R.E our focus this term is Sikhism. The key questions the children will be exploring are 'What is Sikhism?', 'What does Guru mean?'. The children will be discussing and learning about the importance of equality within Sikhism.

In Spanish our new unit is called "Qué tiempo hace?" ("What is the weather like?") Children will be learning how to ask and answer questions about the weather, as well as delivering a weather forecast entirely in Spanish.

In PSHE we will be exploring the human lifecycle and identifying some basic facts about puberty. We will explain that this is a special time when a child gradually grows and develops into a young adult and both their bodies and feelings change a great deal. We will also be discussing the book 'Aalbert and Aalfred' by Morag Hood which explores the idea of friendship, difference and connection.

In Geography we will be focusing on similarities and differences with the UK and other countries in Europe, to consider how geographical location relates to climate and time zones.

In History we are continuing our learning on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will consider who the Vikings were and where they settled; in what ways was Britain united during this time? How does the Governance of the Vikings and Saxons still affect us today?



Which leads us to science! Science this term is all about the water cycle. The children will explore a range of enquiry questions to drive the topic, such as 'How does water move around the Earth?' and give children the crucial skills to mimic what scientists do.

In P.E, children will be learning dance for indoor PE and for outdoor PE this term it is cricket. For both aspects of PE there will be a focus on teamwork and communication skills in order to be successful.



PE Days:

Mrs Rowe's class indoor is Monday and outdoor is Tuesday.

Ms Tonkin's class indoor is Wednesday and outdoor is Tuesday.

Please can the children wear trainers and comfortable clothes on these days.

All the best to you and your families,

Mrs Rowe and Ms Tonkin

Key dates

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| 25 th February | Orchestra performing at Blackheath Halls. |
| 26 th February | Year 4 School journey information session online 5pm (link emailed) |
| 27 th February | Book Fair in school (a letter with information has been emailed already) |
| 27 th February | 9.00-10.00am Halstow Speakeasy event in Bell House Halstow. An opportunity to chat with fellow Halstow parents, make friends and meet the Inclusion Team. |
| 5 th March | Science trip at the Learning Centre, Greenwich Park. Please make sure children wear waterproof coats and shoes as the majority of trip will be outside. |
| 6 th March | Dress up day for Year 4 for World Book Day. |
| 20 th March | World Down Syndrome Day. We will be wearing our brightest/odd socks on the day to raise awareness of Down's Syndrome and to raise money for the Greenwich Down's Syndrome Group (a letter has been emailed for how to donate last term). |
| 26 th March | Supporting your child with reading parent information session 5.00-5.30pm online (link will be emailed) |