



KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 1st Half Term: January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

We hope that you had a lovely Christmas break and wish you all a happy New Year.

Whilst school is currently not open to all children, we really look forward to seeing the children's learning online, via Google Classroom.

The table below provides a brief overview of the learning opportunities that the children will have across subjects this half term. A full curriculum will continue to be provided online, while schools are not open to all children.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	This half term, much of our English work will be based around our focus text 'Edward Tulane', which is a poignant adventure story set in North America. We will be reading and discussing the text, which explores the themes of friendship and loyalty, looking at how the key character changes through the course of the story. We will be writing diary entries, creating poetry and tracking the story through story mapping. Over the half term, we will also be continuing to practise our cursive handwriting, looking at a variety of spelling patterns and working on our focus grammar areas, such as our use of apostrophes and adverbials.
Reading	The children will be reading on a regular basis, continuing to develop their fluency in reading and broadening their vocabulary. When reading and through different curriculum topics; children will be encouraged to ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge. We will continue to work on reading further 'exception' words and applying growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to support reading. The use of dictionaries is encouraged to find the meanings of unfamiliar words.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will continue to focus on our timetables knowledge and developing our fluency in recalling tables. We will also be looking at focus area such as; place value of larger numbers, rounding, mental calculations, column subtraction, finding fractions of numbers and equivalent fractions.
Science	The children will continue to work with Mrs Reynolds on their science work. This half term they will be working on the unit entitled 'In a state'. This unit introduces the concept of states of matter. Children will learn the characteristic properties of solids, liquids and gases firstly through exploring typical materials and then by classifying examples. Using first hand experiences and secondary sources, they will learn about changes of state.
R.E.	This half term we will be learning about Hinduism. We will be thinking about the key question 'Would celebrating Diwali (sometimes spelt Divali) at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child? We will be exploring whether participating in worships, festivals and celebrations help people feel closer to God or their faith community.



Computing	The children were very excited about our new computing platform, Purple Mash, which they were introduced to at the end of the Autumn term. This half term, we will begin exploring the Purple Mash site, familiarising ourselves with how it works, navigating, loading and saving work. We will be using it for a number of curriculum areas as well as using it for our focused computing sessions.
History	In history, we will be exploring Ancient Egypt. We will begin by thinking about what we already know about this topic, then move on to look at how we know so much about the past. We will be exploring artefacts from Ancient Egypt, describing and asking questions about them. We will also be researching Egyptian pyramids, daily life, famous Egyptians and mummification.
Art/DT	We are starting our art and design block with an open-ended task, which you can complete across the half term (more details to follow). I will however, also be setting weekly art and design tasks which will be linked to our Ancient Egypt history topic. We will be creating hieroglyphic artwork, Egyptian portraits and other fun and creative activities.
P.E.	During this lockdown half term, I will be providing the children with a range of PE related links and activities, as well as some tasks set by their school coaches.

Other useful things to remember:

- Please continue to encourage your child to **read regularly**. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read with your child and ask questions about what they have read. This will help to support their developing comprehension skills. It is also beneficial to read aloud to your children. When your child finishes reading a book, they might like to log on to **Accelerated Reader** to take a quiz. Use this link (<https://ukhosted9.renlearn.co.uk/2239980/>) and their login details.
- **PE with Joe Wicks** can be found on YouTube and other fun websites include Cosmic Kids and Go Noodle.
- Please visit your child's **Class Page**, on our School Website, for further resources and **useful web links**.
- You should have login details for the following: **RM easimaths; TT Rockstars;**
- **Playing board games, doing puzzles or drawing/colouring** are lovely, calm activities to do with your child.
- The current crisis is one of uncertainty and difficulty for so many people. Here are a couple of really good websites I would like to share with you; both are an excellent source of support. They might be of help and answer some of the questions your children might be asking at this time.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. If you have any questions or concerns, please drop us a note via our School Office email.

Mrs Jennifer Harris