



# Wingate School Tenerife

## Junior Curriculum Newsletter

### Year 4 (April to June 2021)

#### A Message from Miss Burridge

I hope you have all enjoyed a fun, refreshing Easter break and that the children are looking forward to their final term in Year 4.

This curriculum newsletter will provide you with an insight into what they have in store for them this term across the key **core** subjects.

For further information about other subjects, please see the overview on the school website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

#### General Information:

- PE: Thursdays
- Afternoon activities: Fridays. This may require PE to be worn which will be communicated by email by Ms Estervez, Head of Juniors

#### Other Information:

Our PSHE lessons will remain a focus in class and the children will have various opportunities to discuss their own mental health and wellbeing throughout these sessions.

This term pupils will develop their understanding of:

- **Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds** - the importance of diet, nutrition, exercise and sleep for a balanced, healthy lifestyle and the dangers of substance abuse.
- **Mental Health Month** - mental health and its importance within our everyday lives.
- **Growing and Changing** - how our bodies change as we grow and mature.
- **Preparing for Change** - different

#### Maths

During the Spring Term, Year 4 focused on Number skills whilst studying Multiplication, Division, Fractions and Decimals. The children will continue their hard work and further develop their understanding of decimal place value by ordering, comparing and rounding decimals. In their 'Money' unit of work, they will explore pounds and pence, converting between the two, ordering and estimating amounts, using the four operations (+, -, x, /) and solving money word problems.

Our Geometry work this term will include a study of the 'Properties of 2D Shapes' (investigating lines of symmetry in 2D shapes, completing symmetrical patterns, learning the names and features of different triangles and quadrilaterals), an investigation of 'Angles' (identifying and comparing acute, obtuse, reflex and right angles inside shapes) and an exploration of 'Position and Direction' (describing and plotting coordinates, describing translations/movements of shapes).

Towards the end of term, the children will study 'Time'. They will continue learning to read and write 12 and 24 hour digital time, converting between the two, and solving conversion problems involving different measures of time. Our final topic will be Statistics and this will involve interpreting, creating and solving problems using the data in tables, pictograms, bar charts and line graphs.

#### English

Having written some superb narratives in third person, on our return to school Year 4 will continue writing their explanation text to explain why dinosaurs are extinct using formal language, sophisticated causal connectives and high level vocabulary. We will then explore formal letter writing with the aim of using persuasive language to persuade the reader to a certain point of view. Mid term, the children will learn to perform and write rhyming poetry whilst using onomatopoeia (sound words) and personification in their rhyming couplet poems.

Finally, to round off their Year 4 writing journey and to tie in with their Topic work on 'Ancient Egyptians', the children will write a recount in the form of a newspaper report about the death of the Boy King Tutankhamun. This final piece of writing will also showcase the SPaG (Spelling and Grammar) skills that the children will be working on this term: the use of simple past and present perfect tense, the use of direct and reported (or indirect) speech and the use of commas in sentences to clarify.

In Whole Class Guided Reading sessions this term, we will continue with our class novel 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl whilst also focusing on specific reading skills.



types of change and how they can affect us, whether the change is at home due to divorce, separation or bereavement, or in school as the children prepare to move up to a new year group.

### Home Learning:

- **Telling the time:** Time is a key skill which can be practised quickly and easily at home. **Please ask your child to look at the clock and tell the time to the minute**, both in **analogue time** (using vocabulary such as o'clock, past, to, quarter, half) and **digital time** (hour, then minutes and using am or pm e.g. 8:15am/8:15pm).
- **Reading:** The children should be reading aloud at home for **10 minutes everyday**, discussing the content with an adult or sibling and this should then be recorded in their Home School Record.
- **Times Tables:** Year 4 should be doing **10 minutes daily practice** to improve their knowledge of their times tables and the related division facts to 12X12.
- **Spelling Practice:** Spelling is a key focus and weekly spellings should be practised at home for **10 minutes daily**.

### Online lessons:

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, please be prepared that online lessons could begin unexpectedly. Should this happen, pupils will follow their full, normal timetable and they are expected to be up, ready to learn and online in their class Google Meet by 9:00a.m.

During their online lessons, the children should have their 'Yer 4B 2020-2021' Google Classroom open at all times and I will set work for them to complete as well as being there to answer any questions, queries or problems they may have.

## Topic

In the spring, Year 4 learnt about the countries of the United Kingdom and various aspects of Water, including the Water Cycle, water treatment and the effects of pollution. We will continue with our Geography work with our new topic 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes' - this is particularly relevant due to our living on an island with an active volcano! The children will learn to describe the structure of a volcano, how they are formed, the features of an eruption and how they affect people's lives. They will also explore the causes, features and consequences of earthquakes and methods for measuring their different strengths.

Concluding this year's Topic work is a study of the Ancient Egyptians. A fun, dynamic topic, the children are sure to enjoy discovering who this race of people were, what life was like and how they viewed death, including the steps of the mummification process. The short life of the Boy King Tutankhamun, the art of writing using Egyptian hieroglyphs and the many wonderful Egyptian gods and goddesses they revered are also areas which will be explored in the final weeks of this term. Egyptian-inspired Art projects such as creating an Egyptian death mask, making their own cartouche and drawing the Evil Eye of Horus will run alongside this.

## Science

Last term, the children investigated the three States of Matter and how materials change state. They then studied the parts and functions of the Digestive System, including the different types and functions of teeth. This term, we look forward to completing their delayed experiment by using disclosing tablets to show how well or poorly the children are cleaning their teeth, before concluding this topic by learning about producers, consumers and their roles in food chains.

Our final Science topic will be Living Things and their Habitats. This will be an exciting foray into grouping living things according to their physical characteristics. The children will learn to represent these groupings by interpreting classification keys and then creating some of their own. We will also explore the positive and negative changes to the environment, how this has caused certain species to become endangered and how we can help or prevent this from continuing to happen in the future.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me on [jordana.burridge@wingateschool.com](mailto:jordana.burridge@wingateschool.com).

Wishing you all a safe and happy Summer term.

Miss Burridge