



Year 4 2023

Is HS2 a good idea?



Dear

Parents,

It has been an excellent start to Year 4, and I'm so grateful for your kind comments during parents' evening about how much the children have enjoyed our topic on the Ancient Egyptians! We will be continuing this for the next couple of weeks in preparation for our Ancient Egyptian museum event in mid-November.

Our topic will then shift to thinking about the following question: Is HS2 a good idea? In this short topic, we will be learning what HS2 is, why it was introduced, the changing plan (and the reasons behind these changes), and its potential impact on the environment and economy. This topic will link heavily with our English work, and will conclude with the children writing a balanced argument expressing some of the points of view of its supporters and detractors.

This half term is always one of the busiest, and this year will be no exception! We will also be rehearsing for the KS2 Christmas production and, by the time you read this, your child will have been given their part for this year. It promises to be another fantastic show and we can't wait to welcome you along to see it!

Supporting learning at home:

- Encourage your child to read every day. We would love children to access a range of genres in their reading at home, including poetry, non-fiction and fiction.
- In KS2, we are trialing a new weekly reward of an extra break time on a Thursday or Friday for any children who complete their homework and hand it in on time.
Each class teacher will set their own criteria for earning this reward, and Year 4's is as follows:
 - Completing that week's maths homework **and** handing it in on time
 - Scoring 7/10 or higher in that week's spelling test
 - Clear evidence that they are working on their times tables (usually by improving their score in the weekly times tables test)
- Support and encourage your child to learn their spellings each week; little and often is best. Our weekly spelling test will be changing to **Wednesdays** (to more easily accommodate the weekly reward), and the spelling lists will continue to either be on Google Classroom or written into your child's book.
- Children will continue to be set one piece of maths homework to complete each week. Whilst I would encourage the children to complete this independently, please feel free to support your child with their homework. If there is anything they don't understand,

please ask your child to come and speak to me for additional help **before** the homework is due in.

- The children's Ancient Egypt homework projects are due in on the week of **13th November** ready for our exhibition on that Thursday. Children can bring in their projects on that morning should you wish (this would be better for any food-based work).

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 13th – Thursday 16th November – Ancient Egyptian homework projects due
- Thursday 16th November – Ancient Egypt Museum Exhibition; 2:30-3pm (location TBC)
- Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Panto Trip
- Thursday 14th (5pm) and Friday 15th December (2pm) – KS2 Christmas Production

Each week

- This half term, children will have P.E. on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. Please help to ensure they have the correct kit in school on these days.
- Spelling tests will be every **Wednesday**.
- Times table test will be every **Friday**.
- Homework will be set on a **Thursday** and due in on the following **Tuesday**.

Please remember to come and talk to us anytime if you need to discuss anything.

Mr. Swards & Mrs. McWhirter

English

In English we will be learning to:

- Use apostrophes for possession
- Expand noun phrases regularly
- Recognise the difference between bias and balance
- Participate effectively in a debate
- Write a balanced argument
- To use suitable words and phrases to link and build cohesion between paragraphs
- Select and use suitable presentational and organisational features for an information text

Maths

In maths, we will be learning the following skills through a range of fluency and reasoning & problem solving activities:

- To recognise links between multiplying and dividing by 2, 4 and 8
- Recall multiplication and division facts in the 3, 6 and 9 times tables
- Subtract two four-digit numbers using the column method
- Tackle maths investigations based on their knowledge of addition and subtraction

Spanish



We are delighted to have Mrs. Del Rio teaching our Spanish this year. She will be planning and co-ordinating the curriculum, and will begin by going over key Spanish greetings and conversation

Art



We will be finishing our Ancient Egyptian canopic jars, focusing on the techniques of painting and glazing the clay pots. We will learn about how to create the best mixtures for an effective glaze.

Science



Our science this half term will be continuing to look at sound, including how sound can travel in objects, effective insulators and how to manipulate materials to change pitch and volume.

P.E.



Our P.E. will focus this half term on developing our fitness. Both Miss Lane and Mr. Swards will be teaching

P.S.H.E



We will be learning about how to stay safe, our early warning signs and the rights

R.E.



In RE, we will be finishing our work on why Jesus and Moses were inspiration figures to people, and