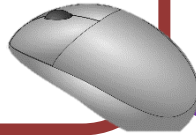


### Computing

Our unit of work this term is all about Authoring. We will learn how to use functions of Microsoft Word and Power Point such as:

- using dictionaries and spellchecks,
- changing layout with tabs, bullet points and justification,
- using the find and replace, copy, cut and paste tools
- enhancing appearance by customising background, font, size and colour
- adding sound, hyperlinks and custom animation.



### Art

We will be basing our artwork this half term around the piece 'Four Trees' by Egon Schiele. We will explore how to use and combine media to achieve different effects and produce our own pieces in his style.



### Science

We begin our year with an exciting unit all about living things and their environment. We will learn about classification and explore where animals live and why. We will find out about animals that survive harsher habitats by exploring adaptation, migration and hibernation. The children will interpret and construct food chains and learn to use the terms: predator, prey, consumer and producer.



### English

We are kicking off English this half term with 'Mythical Writing' using the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by Joe Todd Stanton as a stimulus. After this we will explore 'Creative Poetry'. This unit explores how authors create images in the reader's mind and introduces the children to some key skills such as using noun and adjective phrases, fronting adverbials and using similes and metaphors. We will also have regular spelling, grammar and handwriting lessons to boost our knowledge and skills.



A very warm welcome  
to Year Four!  
There are so many  
exciting things going on  
in our class this half  
term!



### Design Technology

There will be no DT topic at the start of term but later we will learn different types of sewing stitches in order to design and make reusable bags from an old T-shirt or vest! Later in the year we will create mechanisms for our own pop up books and use our knowledge of electrical circuits to create a working torch and burglar alarm!



### Humanities (History, Geography & Religion)

Our first History topic is all about Ancient Civilisations. We will find out about what it was like to live in Ancient Egypt and what people believed and practiced. We will explore the building of the pyramids, the process of mummification and the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamun. Later in the term we will link this to our Geography unit on Deserts and explore how the desert is used and lived in today. In Religion we will compare beliefs and practices in Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism.



### Maths

Daily lessons will include one main lesson and a short fluency session to improve speed, accuracy and reasoning. Number and place value is the core of all maths learning and will be the main units for this half term. However a range of other topics will also be covered such as work on shape, measure and data handling. The children will be encouraged and taught to apply their skills and knowledge into problem solving contexts and to explain their predictions, methods and results.

Year 4 have PE on Wednesday mornings with Miss Gottlieb and on Friday mornings with Mrs Burt. Our Wednesday session will be an outdoor session focussing on net and court games. Our Friday session will be an indoor session focussing on gymnastic skills. Please ensure that your child has appropriate kit for each session – their team coloured t-shirt, shorts or joggers and perhaps a jumper for cooler outdoor lessons later in the term.

Year 4 take part in a statutory National times tables test in June. We will prepare for this by learning and consolidating times tables and inverses up to 12 x 12 weekly. Please help your child to prepare for this test by continuing to practice these skills at home using online programmes like TT Rockstars and Hit The Button.

### Spanish

Spanish will continue for your children in year four. We are very lucky to welcome Ms Fernandez to Panshanger. Ms Fernandez is a Spanish native who has been teaching in Spain. She will deliver Spanish lessons every Monday morning. The lessons at the beginning of this half term will recap previous vocabulary that the children have covered previously and essential skills will also be practiced through early morning work in class.

All children at Panshanger are expected to read regularly at home. It is expected in Year 4 that each child reads at least three times each week from a range of different texts. Please ensure that your child reads regularly and widely at home as it is so important for the development of all areas of the curriculum. In school we will read daily from a class novel, explore texts of different genres during weekly guided reading sessions and work on focussed comprehension skills.

For the Autumn term, there will be no formal written homework. Children will be expected to read three times each week, practice their weekly spellings and regularly rehearse their times tables.

The children will receive weekly spellings to learn at home. These will mirror the pattern or sound being learned in school. The children will have either six or ten words to learn which they will be tested on every Friday.. Spellings for the whole half term will be given out in the first week of that half term.

### Reminders

All the stationery that your child needs will be provided for them in school. If your child wishes to have their own items (coloured pencils, glue, calculator etc) they may, however these should stay in school and fit in your child's personal drawer. An indoor and outdoor PE kit in the correct house colour should remain in school on your child's peg and they should have a pair of plimsolls to wear in the classroom and dining room. All personal items should be clearly labelled so that they can be easily reunited with their owner should they become lost! Sorting through large numbers of identical, unnamed green jumpers and blue polo shirts is not fun!

It is important to me that we have an open line of communication. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school via Admin or through my own email: [gail.burt@panshanger.herts.sch.uk](mailto:gail.burt@panshanger.herts.sch.uk) I will endeavour to respond as quickly as I can. I am also available after school on Wednesday or Thursday should you prefer to talk face to face.