

Computing

This term our computing topic is 'Systems and Networks'. This unit explores the World Wide Web focussing on:

- How systems are linked through the Internet
- What the Internet is made of
- How to safely share information
- What a website is
- Who owns the Internet?
- Learning what to believe and what not to believe on the Internet

We will also be developing our touch typing skills using the BBC Dance-mat program. The children will have weekly practice starting with the home keys and then gradually moving onto the top and bottom rows through the term.

Maths

The main unit for this half term will be on multiplying and dividing. Later in the term the children will explore measures and fractions. 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. Alongside daily lessons, the children will also continue to develop their times tables knowledge in preparation for the national test in June.

Art

We will be exploring portraiture using the work of artist Frida Kahlo. We will also look at surrealist artwork by Kahlo and Salvador Dali.

A very happy new year to you all. Here is some information about what will be happening in Year 4 over the next few weeks!

English

Our first unit this half term is called 'Amazing Africa'. It is a non-fiction unit centred on persuasive leaflets. By exploring existing travel leaflets, the children will explore the techniques used to engage the reader such as expanded noun phrases, adverbials, power of three and rhetorical questions. Then they will begin to apply these techniques to their own destination leaflet for an imaginary location.

Science

We will begin by completing our unit on Sound and Hearing. We will investigate whether sound can travel through different materials and how we can recognise and change pitch. We will explore the development of the hearing aid and how it has changed over time.

We will then begin a unit called 'States of Matter' which will explore solids, liquids and gases, melting, heating and cooling, chemical reactions and evaporation.

We will have two PE sessions this half term. On Wednesday mornings the children will have an outdoor PE session with Stevenage Football Club specialists where they will learn and practice the skills of hockey.

Our second session will be on a Friday morning and will be an indoor session exploring the sport of dodgeball!



Year 4 will take part in the 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. Please help your child prepare for this test by practicing these skills regularly at home using online programmes like TT Rockstars and Hit the Button. It is vital that the children have quick and accurate recall of all their times tables and division facts.



Spanish

Lessons will continue weekly with Mrs Fernandez and will focus on the use of verbs and adjectives to describe things and people. The children have been learning how to recognise and say the different parts of our face. As usual, there will be opportunities for speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish.

Humanities (History, Geography & Religion)

Our new History topic is all about The Anglo Saxons. We will find out about who the Anglo-Saxons were, why they settled in Britain and what it was like to live during the Anglo-Saxon era. In Geography we will explore the city of Madrid and compare life in Spain with life in the UK in terms of food, sport, weather and school. In Religion we will continue to compare beliefs and practices in Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism, focussing particularly on special texts and special places.



Spelling work this term will focus on learning the suffixes *ous*, *eous*, *ious* and the phoneme *au*. Spelling lists for the half term were given out at the end of last term. As always, they have a date to begin practising at the top and will be tested on the Friday morning of that week. Please encourage and help your child to learn their weekly spellings.



A clearly labelled, indoor PE kit in the correct house team colour should remain in school on your child's peg and they should have a correctly fitting and named pair of plimsolls for indoor use. This term, as long as the weather permits, our sessions with SFC will be outdoor. Your child will therefore also need a clearly labelled kit for these sessions which reflects the cooler temperatures and also the muddier field! All stationery and other equipment that your child needs is provided in school.

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. I will endeavour to respond as quickly as I can.