**Science**

**We will complete unit on ‘Changing State’. In this unit we will explore the concept and meaning of the three main states: solids, liquids and gases. We will learn about the properties of each and explore complex examples such as solids that behave like liquids. Later in the topic we conduct experiments to separate solids from each other and solids from liquids. We will also explore what happens when solids and liquids are heated and cooled.**

**Design Technology**

**We have learned how to create a range of exciting mechanisms such as levers, V-folds, baubles, steps and multi-steps which we will now use to create our very own pop-up books designed for younger children!**

**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 Dancemat program.**

We will be talking about:

- Joining a new c We will be talking about:

- Joining a new class.

- Making new friends/

 Introducing ourselves

- Panshanger Golden Rules

- Why we have rules

- What would happen if there

 were no rules

- Building confidence and self-

 esteem

- Sharing celebrations

- Taking care of each other

- Identifying ways in which

 stories can

 represent a moral

- Making choices

- Stranger danger

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**English**

**We are kicking off English this half term with a lively unit on performance poetry where we will practice reading and performing poems aloud. We will then begin a longer unit all about discussion writing. This unit will focus on non-fiction writing, exploring both structure and content. The children will learn how to present both sides of a discussion fairly for their reader and will cover topics such as: *Should animals be kept in zoos? Should children have homework? Should children have to wear school uniform?* We will also be exploring The Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett after a performance later in the term.**

**Art**

**We are currently exploring portraiture and the unique work of artist Frida Kahlo. We will use her work to explore realistic techniques for drawing faces, eyes, noses, mouths and hair as well as exploring how we can project identity through portraiture. Later, we will use the work of other artists such as Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Picasso to explore more abstract ideas.**

**Welcome back everyone! This half term promises to be a very busy but very exciting one in Year Four!**





**Maths**

**The main unit for this half term is fractions. The unit will focus on exploring what fractions are, finding fractions of shapes and amounts as well as learning about equivalence. Later in the half term we will start another longer unit on Decimals where the children will explore decimals up to 2 decimal places and**

**link this knowledge to their previous unit on fractions.**

**Humanities (History, Geography & Religion)**

**We will continue our current History topic on The Anglo Saxons until the Easter break. The children will explore the importance of the findings at Sutton Hoo and will consider whether this period in History should really be considered a ‘Dark Age’. We will complete our Geography unit on Spectacular Spain by exploring food, festivals and bullfighting!**

**In Religion we will continue to compare beliefs and practices in Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism, focussing particularly on important customs around birth. We will also explore the Christian Easter Story and some traditions.**



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**We will be continuing to read The Butterfly Lion by Micheal Morpurgo as our class novel. The children are enjoying this book very much!**

**Spanish**

**Children will learn how to express likes and dislikes and talk about what they and others like to do. The range of vocabulary will increase as will the length of texts presented to the children. All four areas of language learning – speaking, listening, reading and writing will form the basis of each lesson.**

**Should you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small, 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. If you prefer to chat face to face, I am available for teacher surgery on Thursdays.**

**The children will continue to be set homework – they will have weekly spelling words and are expected to read at least three times each week. They should also continue to practice times tables and other essential number skills. There may occasionally be additional tasks that could be any subject e.g. a history task/science investigation or research into a geography topic set on the Google Classroom.**

**Reminders**

**The music for our pantomime ‘Hansel and Gretal’ has been uploaded to the Google Classroom and the children should have brought home their copy of the words for each song. Please encourage your child to practice these songs regularly so that they become less dependent on the words. We will be doing this in school too as it is important that the children are confident when they go on stage in front of an audience.**

**Please ensure that your child has an indoor PE kit in school and that all items are labelled. It is also helpful if children’s uniform is clearly labelled to make any lost property easy to reunite with its owner!**

**There will be a heavier focus on Times Tables in our Maths Fluency sessions this half term. The children have been rehearsing facts for the 2/3/4/5/6/7 and 10 times tables. This half term we will concentrate on the 8, 9 and 12 times table. It is vitally important that children continue to practice these at home to become quicker and more accurate in preparation for the Y4 national times table test in June.**

**Reading**

**Year Four are doing well with remembering to read regularly and to present a signed reading record on Monday mornings. I have been impressed with the range of texts that the children are reading at home and the supportive feedback you have given in their reading record. Please continue to support your child at home with reading this half term to maintain their good progress.**

**Year 4 will have PE on Monday afternoons where we will be starting a unit in Dodgeball. This is an indoor session.**

**Our remaining hall time will be devoted to learning dances for our upcoming pantomime ‘Hansel and Gretal’ which the children will be sharing in March.**

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