

### Computing

This half term we will begin a unit on Photo Editing where the children will learn to:

- make changes to an image and then save the image as a new version.
- change the composition of images.
- change images for different uses.
- retouch images and
- recognise fake images.



### Art

We will begin a new unit based around the work of famous Victorian artist and designer, William Morris. We will explore still life drawings, pattern and printing! The children will design their own prints using polystyrene.



### Science

Our science unit this half term will be all about electricity. The children will explore the symbols for electrical components, how to make a successful circuit, how a circuit can be broken or interrupted using conductors and insulators and electrical safety in the home.

### English

Our first unit will be a poetry unit. The children will explore the structure of a haiku and use the theme of spring to create their own. After this, we will complete a persuasive unit based on the novel 'Malala's Magic Pencil' by Malala Yousafzai. The children will make comparisons between persuasive speeches and persuasive letters. They will explore the features of a persuasive letter in greater detail and use this to collaboratively plan, structure and write their own persuasive letter.



Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and did not eat too much chocolate!

### Design Technology

Our final DT topic for the year will link to our science work on electricity. The children will use what they learn about electricity to create a simple torch and burglar alarm that can be controlled with different types of switches.

### Maths

The main focus for Fluency sessions this half term will be speed and agility in times tables up to 12x12 in preparation for our National Times Table check in early June. In daily lessons for the first three weeks we will be exploring decimals. In year four we look at decimal numbers up to 2dp. After this we will do some lighter units on shape and measure. As these are shorter units, there may be homework assigned to help support and extend the children's learning opportunities.



### Humanities (History & Religion)

In Religion we will be looking at important customs in Christianity, Sikhism and Hinduism and how they vary in a lovely topic about 'belonging'. Our history topic this term is called 'Victorian Children' and will encourage the children to compare and contrast the lives of both wealthy and poor Victorian children with their own lives. We will look at characters and movements that were instrumental in shaping the lives we have today such as Dr Barnardo and the Education Act.



## PE

This half term the children will have two outdoor PE sessions. On a Tuesday they will do Athletics with Miss Gottlieb and on a Wednesday they will do Outdoor Adventurous Activities with Stevenage Football Club. As both sessions are outdoor, please ensure that your child has the correct kit and outdoor footwear.



## Geography

This term our topic will be 'Settlements'. In this unit we will explore why people settle in different places and why only some settlements grow. We will look at the key features of the main settlement types such as Farms, Hamlets and Villages. We will also look at the counties and major cities of the UK.

## Personal, Social and Health Development

PSHE for Summer 1 will focus on relationships, exploring issues such as jealousy, getting on and falling out, love and loss and strategies for coping with feelings and situations. The unit will encourage children to talk about people that are special to them and memories that they cherish.



## Reading

Reading is a crucial skill in Year four. What children read can greatly influence how they progress as writers, how they structure their speech and their variety of vocabulary. It is therefore important that your child is regularly accessing a wide range of age appropriate (and challenging) texts, in a range of genres that will help them to develop their literacy skills.

We will be reading **The Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith** as our class novel this half term!



## Spellings

Spellings for the week will continue to start each Monday to be tested on Friday morning. Your child has received their new set of spellings which start on Monday 21st April. Your ongoing support with spelling work is much appreciated :) Thank you!

## General

Reading records for those still reading 1-1 will be collected each Friday morning so that I can monitor what children are reading and how they are getting on. Reading records will no longer be collected for those children in year four on 'Free Readers'. Instead we encourage children to bring in their current reading book every Friday morning to talk about and share with their classmates. I have really enjoyed looking at the range of texts that the children are reading and hearing about what they enjoy. If there is an author that your child is particularly interested in, please ask as I am almost certain I will have something in my own bookshelves! As we come into the warmer part of the school year, please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school as our classroom gets very hot!

Should you have any queries or concerns, no matter how big or small, 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! Alternatively, I am available after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays should you prefer to speak face to face.