Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to year 4 class. We have already had a lovely start to the year and look forward to all that is to come. Year 4 is such an important year as the children start to build even more independence and curiosity.

Here is a brief overview of what we will be covering this half term.

Topic

In Geography we are learning about lines of latitude and longitude and revisiting the equator and poles. Children will have some practical learning using grid references and map reading.

In Art we will be using sketching techniques to compare light and dark. Children will use a range of materials to recreate this technique. Artists such as Caravaggio and Vermeer will be shown as exemplars.

In Computing the children will be learning about how to use a search engine effectively and answering questions. They will be guided about how to look for and trust reliable information sources. I believe this is such a crucial topic in our increasingly digitised world.

Mrs Baker will teach children RE and Music on Monday afternoons. In RE children will learn about different faiths and religions. This half term they will begin by exploring Judaism. RE is a vital topic to gain an understanding about different belief systems as well as exercising respect and tolerance toward different religions. In Music children will be using the techniques of creating and notating their own music.

Madame Leze will teach children French and PHSE on Friday afternoons building upon previous years' learning.

Science
Science will take place on Tuesdays. We begin by learning about the human bodies, how to keep them healthy and the role of each type of tooth. We will conduct a week-long experiment to examine the effect of different drinks on teeth!

Maths
In Maths we focus on the principles of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. We will use Power Maths to support this learning.

English
We have started this term with an exciting Adventure Story. The children will have daily reading sessions and weekly library sessions. As homework children should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and to complete three comments in their reading diaries.

PE
PE begins with fundamentals. This takes place on Wednesday afternoons. PE and Swimming happen simultaneously so there will be just one longer PE session a week.

Timestables

Year 4 there is a great emphasis on times tables. The children will sit a Multiplication Check in the Summer Term. Improving their tables will be absolutely integral as children progress throughout their entire school life. Being able to rapidly recall multiplication facts will undoubtedly have a positive impact on all areas of maths.

In class we will create a positive and encouraging environment when it comes to learning tables. Children will be taught using engaging methods that support their active recall instead of passive learning. Each week new ideas will be shown to children to make learning their tables fun and any evidence of practice at home will be awarded.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or queries please get in touch with me via office@hoveton-st-johns.norfolk.sch.uk where your email will be forwarded or catch me outside at hometime to arrange a convenient time to have a conversation.

Miss Thomas and Mrs Popey