

# Year 4 Newsletter December 2023

Welcome to the latest Year 4 newsletter.

We continue to be impressed with the children's enthusiasm to learn and the hard work they have been putting into their class activities. The standard of writing the children are producing is fantastic, and we were thoroughly entertained by the imagination and creativity shown in their versions of Aladdin.

We have had another half term of great learning opportunities. The children have participated in a history workshop with Chertsey Museum and have attended a Christmas concert at Winston Churchill School. The children were thoroughly engaged with Christmas Pause Day, using art to express their answer to our big question, 'How can artists help us understand Christmas?'

On behalf of the year 4 team, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas. We look forward to welcoming your children back in 2024.

## Homework

All the children are now completing their weekly homework. Please remember that our expectations are

- CGP Maths book
- Times Table Rockstars 10 minutes practice per week
- Spelling practice – Weekly spelling list in their HSO
- SPAG.COM
- Reading 5/7 days to be recorded in their HSO. The children will also be given 1 reading question each week to help them reflect on their book.

Each task should last at least 10 minutes.

We also ask that you sign your child's HSO each week.

If you have any queries about homework, please email your class teacher.

## Spring assessments

In March, we will be taking part in assessments for reading, SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and maths using NTS formal assessments. Teachers will also be assessing writing using the independent writing activities which the children have already completed over the previous half term. As a school we use this information, along with in-class teacher judgements, to map out our future planning, intervention groups and highlight any gaps in knowledge which may need to be taught again.

Teachers and senior leadership (which includes Mr Stevenson, our Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for inclusion and SEND meet to discuss all children within our termly 'Pupil Progress Meetings'.

We will let you know how your child has performed through our parents' evening session, and also through our 'Snapshot reports' which will be sent directly to you as parents on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Book bands will also change if appropriate, based on these assessments.

### Communication.

If you would like to contact your child's class teacher, please e-mail:

**Acer - Mrs Gunning** (Monday – Wednesday) [g.gunning@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:g.gunning@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk)

**Palm - Mrs Cumberbeach** [r.cumberbeach@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:r.cumberbeach@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk)

**Pine - Miss Lines** [j.lines@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:j.lines@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk)

### Parents evening Spring 2024

During week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, each class teacher will be hosting a 10-minute parent consultation in school. This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and engagement at school.

### Times Table Rockstars year group battle

The results for this half term's battle were:

1<sup>st</sup> Acer                  2<sup>nd</sup> Pine                  3<sup>rd</sup> Palm



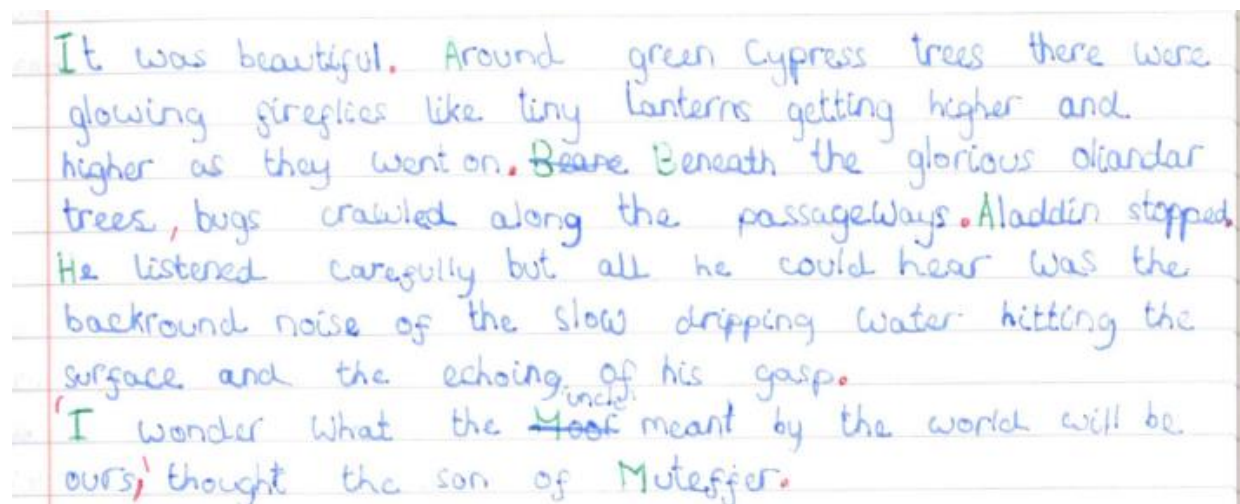
### Chertsey Museum

We got to look at lots of artefacts from Roman and Anglo-Saxon times when Chertsey museum came to visit us. The children enjoyed trying to work out what some of the unusual items were and what they might have been used for. They were less keen on experiencing some of the smells! The worst of which was agreed to be tallow, which is rendered animal fat that the Romans used for candles.

### WOW Work!

Every year group newsletter this year will include a piece of writing published from a child in our year group. It is a great way to showcase what we have been doing in school but also allow the children to see that their writing can have an audience.

This half term's work has been written by Elle in Acer Class. Her description of the setting is very engaging and helps bring her story to life.



It was beautiful. Around green cypress trees there were glowing fireflies like tiny lanterns getting higher and higher as they went on. Beneath the glorious olivander trees, bugs crawled along the passageways. Aladdin stopped. He listened carefully but all he could hear was the background noise of the slow dripping water hitting the surface and the echoing of his gasp. 'I wonder what the <sup>voice</sup> Moof meant by the world will be ours,' thought the son of Muteffer.

### Spring 1 skills

Pine- PE with Mr Coles

Palm- PE with Complete Coaching

Acer- Swimming with Mrs Tapley and Art with Mrs Dayekh

### Year 4 Topics

During this half term the children have particularly enjoyed our Science topic which has been sound. The children were fascinated to discover the anatomy of the ear and how small some of our bones are. They have demonstrated a good understanding of how sound waves travel and why we cannot hear echoes in the classroom.

In English, the children researched alternatives for plastic straws. Did you know that a straw that is used for just minutes exists for 450 years? We wrote adverts to promote the use of Stroodles as an alternative; these are drinking straws made of pasta!

The children have continued to develop their learning in Maths with a unit on multiplication and division. They quickly learnt how important knowing their times table were and how to apply these table facts to division. We will continue to prioritise the learning of times tables next term.

In history we have been studying the Roman invasion of Britain and finding out why the Roman army were so successful. The children enjoyed learning Latin and finding out about some of the weapons the soldiers used. Testudo is the Latin word for tortoise, which is one of the Roman formations.

In RE the children have been answering the question 'What did Jesus say about God's Kingdom and why is it good news?'. This topic, which involved lots of deep thinking, had some challenging concepts with which the children engaged.

## Diary Dates

<b>January</b>	<b>Inset day:</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024 <b>Back to school:</b> Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024 <b>TTRS Multiplication Tables Check:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 <b>Past Productions history workshop:</b> Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Acer Class Assembly:</b> Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January <b>PTA Good as new sale:</b> Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>February</b>	<b>Safer internet week:</b> Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <b>Finish for half term:</b> Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <b>Inset Day:</b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <b>Bikebility:</b> W/C 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023