

Asfordby Hill Primary School

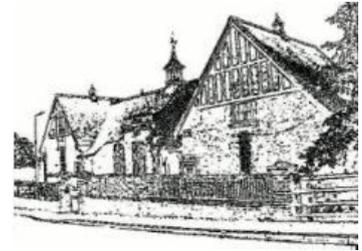
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Headteacher: Mrs. P. Millward
Chair of Governors: Rev. N Ashton

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful break and that all the children are well rested and ready to embark on their wonderful and creative Spring term in Year 4. We've got an exciting yet demanding term ahead of us!

We will begin the term with a topic called "Climate and weather." Within it, we will be investigating climate change and the impact this is having on the children as well as their environment; we will be raising questions about global warming, the greenhouse gases, looking at the ozone layer, carbon footprints, and our topic will also be linked to the national news and the disasters which are currently being faced around the world. Climate change affects everyone, regardless of age, status, gender and nationality. It is a worldwide problem. In this topic the children will find out exactly what it is and what can be done to minimize its effects. The texts that will be used to help children explore this topic will be 'What every child should know about climate by Baby Professor' This non-fiction book of climate change knowledge is rich with child-friendly information and vibrant pictures to develop their imagination, raise aware and create knowledgeable children. Furthermore, we will be exploring a simpler fiction book called 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' that the children can use as a base from which to build their own narrative. This will be a great way to explore climate change and the reasons for changes in weather such as droughts through creative stories. This topic not only builds upon learning about climate and the weather but, by revisiting skills and knowledge from last term relating to food from around the world which we looked at in Geography as well as food webs and animals in different continents, it will ensure children are able to retrieve knowledge effectively and move taught material from short term to long term memory.

Throughout the term, the children will also be putting their computing skills to the test as the children take on the role of meteorologists and weather presenters. They will have the opportunity to collect data using weather measurement equipment, which will then be entered into a spreadsheet to create simple charts to then make a weather presentation using power point. All the children will get an opportunity to become weather presenters and report their findings and predictions to the rest of the class. We will take this one step further by looking at the weather around the world – enhancing children's maps skills and knowledge of continents. There will be many opportunities for the children to develop their debating skills, by looking at some topics that have caused controversy, such as global warming; we will look in depth at the reasons for and against each action, listening to experts such as Greta Thunberg. In addition, the children will be exploring the artist Claude Monet – using water colours to create a nature-themed collage for their climate change posters. They will use and then evaluate their abilities to use a variety of artistic techniques to create different effects, as well as evaluating, designing and making their own collage as a background for their posters on climate change. Historically, we will be exploring the Tudors looking in detail at Henry VIII and the battle between king and religion. Again, the children will be relating back to previous learning through the use of vocabulary from Year 3 and also last term.



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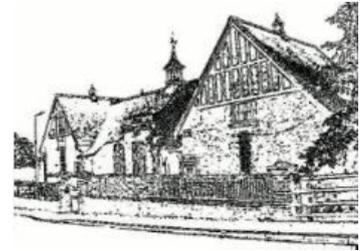
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Historical vocabulary will include tyrant, despot, reformation, treason, persecution and government. It would be useful for you to discuss these concepts at home and explore their wider connotations. Finally, our French learning moves on to and encourages the children to retrieve learning from their long-term memory to recall animals, colours. They will be presenting a short speech on their favourite animal. Children will then move onto to the topic “All about me”, where they will have the opportunity to make a presentation about themselves to their peers and hopefully yourselves in French.

In English this term, we will initially be focusing on developing the children’s creative flair through a bewitchingly beautiful, spine-chilling story of courage, friendship and fears that come alive after dark... ‘The Switching Hour’ by Damaris Young. We will be enhancing their use of ambitious vocabulary as well as being able to create cohesion within and across paragraphs. As a school, we aim to help develop children’s writing through exploring quality models and texts. Through analysis of sentence grammar and structure, we can then create quality sentences that are cohesive and contain sophisticated levels of language. These sentences will be slowly crafted, with great levels of care and attention, and will come together to create a whole text. The skills that they learn throughout this process should enable them to recreate a text, of similar high quality, completely independently. We will then move on to writing a balanced argument, a letter to the government on climate change views and finally look at a piece of explanation text on what can be done to achieve a better environment, after having accumulated a wealth of knowledge through newspaper articles, internet and other non-fiction texts within the classroom. Finally, we will look at writing Biographies focusing on Greta Thunberg – the Swedish student, who tries to raise awareness about climate change around the world.

Reading is a great way for children to be immersed in vocabulary and to explore expertly crafted sentences. Ten minutes a day devoted to reading at home can have a large impact on their writing abilities.

In maths, we will initially be building on from last term’s place value, multiplication and division; equipping children with confidence when problem solving. After this, we will be spending a good bit of time focusing on fractions, decimals and area. Within this, we will be continuing with our mastery approach to learning: once a child has shown that they are proficient in the skill and can apply it (fluency), we can go deeper by manipulating this skill when solving complex problems.

In science this term we will be exploring sound, identifying how sounds are made, exploring sound sources around the school, looking at how vibrations make sounds and how sound travels. Through the use of musical instruments, we will be exploring pitch and making our own straw pan pipes with each pan pipe creating a different pitch.

Homework: please see this term’s LEARNING FROM HOME booklet.



Healthy School



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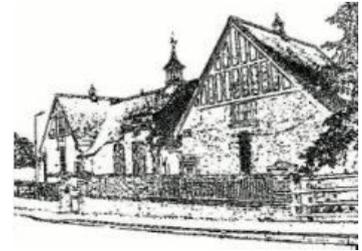
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PE will be taught weekly on a Monday and Thursday. However, if the weather is good or I feel physical exercise will be of great benefit to the children at that time, we may enjoy PE on separate occasions so they will need access to their kit at all times. The children will have the opportunity to do dance, gym and tennis this term.

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At AHS, we pride ourselves on our abilities to celebrate differences and promote diversity and equality. Children's citizenship awards will be once again be linked to our school personal development motto: 'When Lightning Strikes, Look for the Rainbow'. Throughout the year, children will be given the opportunity – both at home and within school – to showcase one of the seven rainbow skills in order to finally achieve their Rainbow Certificate. This will be a true badge of honour as those who gain it will showcase their ability to be well-rounded citizens equipped and ready for the modern world. Beech's focus for the first half term will be: **GRATIITUDE** and **UNDERSTANDING OTHERS**.

All I ask from the children is that they work hard and persevere when things get tricky. This term will be filled with challenges but I have no doubt in my mind that they can and will achieve great things.

To enhance the curriculum further, Mrs Bailey has organised our annual book week around the theme 'Heroes and Villains' and has asked representatives from the local community to come in to read quality texts to the children. She has organised an inter-class wheelbarrow competition -8 wheelbarrows from around the world! Beech class have **Egypt** and the children will be bringing home a blank wheelbarrow picture during the half term holiday to design with family members. The more creative the better!!

Wow! What a full term! As always, if you have any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to me.

Miss Patel

