



HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

6th November 2023

Dear Parent,

Year 4 Class Newsletter

Autumn 2

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term.

Our exciting new topic this half term is *Sound and Vision*, which is all about light, sound and electricity. On our In-Day, last Monday, the children explored a carousel of eight different exciting science investigations. They designed shadow puppets, built electrical circuits, made rice 'dance' using sound vibrations, used mirrors to see round corners, played a tune using empty bottles and water, communicated through cup and string telephones, and separated salt and pepper using static electricity. The children loved it and came up with a huge number of scientific questions which we will investigate over the course of the half term.

Reading

The most important thing you can do to support your child's academic progress in Year 4 is to read with them at home. Although the children read independently in school on a daily basis, sharing a book with you every night (so you take it in turns to read a paragraph and discuss what is going on in the story and between the lines) is very powerful. Please ask us if you need book suggestions.

English

In writing this half term we focus on newspaper reports, diary recounts and writing science fiction. All the work we do is linked to our topic in order to spark the children's interest and develop their topic vocabulary. It would be helpful if your child could read some children's news about science on a regular basis, to support their learning. They can try the BBC Newsround website, or there are some wonderful newspapers and magazines available for children. We recommend First News, The Week Junior and Science & Nature magazine (from The Week Junior). The websites for the Science Museum and Natural History Museum also have good news sections for kids.

Maths

In maths this half term we will be looking at area of shapes, followed by multiplication and division. Knowing times tables really well, so that they have instant recall of the multiplication facts (e.g. $4 \times 5 = 20$, $5 \times 4 = 20$) and the division facts (i.e. $20 \div 4 = 5$, $20 \div 5 = 4$) has a huge impact on your child's confidence in maths. Please prompt them to sing their times tables, chant them, recite them, and dance along to them as often as possible. Asking them to answer times tables questions every day as you walk or drive to school can be very effective!

As well as using the TTRockstars website, BBC Teach has good videos that your child can join in with to make it more fun: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4>



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Homework

Homework will continue to be set each Friday on Google Classroom and on MyMaths. Please upload your child's work to the homework assignment on Google Classroom by Wednesday each week.

PE

This half term we will be continuing swimming on Wednesday mornings. We will also be doing gymnastics. Please ensure your child has the correct swimming kit, which includes a swimming cap and a one-piece costume as well as coming to school with long hair tied back.

Whole Class Instrument Tuition

4JS will continue to have violin lessons on Tuesdays and 4DC to have guitar on Wednesdays this half term. The children are really enjoying the lessons and are making good progress. We will be having our first concerts soon (see key dates below).

Date	
Friday 17 th November 6 – 8pm	Silent Disco for years 4 - 6
Wednesday 22 nd November 4 – 6:30pm	Parent consultation evening
Thursday 23 rd November 5:50 – 8:00pm	Parent consultation evening
Friday 24 th Nov	INSET DAY – school closed to children
Tuesday 28 th November 2:45pm	4JS Violin concert
Wednesday 29 th November 2:45pm	4DC Guitar concert
Friday 1 st December	Trip to Science Museum
Saturday 2 nd December 2pm	Christmas Fair
Thursday 14 th December 2pm	Christmas show 4JS
Friday 15 th December 2pm	Christmas show 4DC
Wednesday 20 th December 1.30pm	Last day of term – early finish

Best wishes,

The Year 4 Team



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