

Dear Year 4 Families,

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks once again for the time taken to meet during the course of this term. It is vital that we keep a clear line of communication, to ensure that we work in harmony to help each student progress within their own potential.

English

Students have worked on an incredible range of skills during term 1. They have learned how to write story settings and newspaper reports by focusing on the use of adverbs, fronted adverbials, speech marks, subheadings, bullet points, and key punctuation points such as capital letters, commas, questions marks, and exclamation marks. The children related their writings to the age of the Vikings and immersed themselves in the icy lands of Scandinavia.

During the second half of term 1, students have continued to develop their creative writing skills by writing a '*How to Build an Iron Man*' explanation text and a character description text based on the Iron Man story. Students learned about the key features of each and incorporated time connectors, casual connector, rhetorical questions, personification, expanded noun phrases, synonyms, antonyms, similes, and metaphors.

Finally, children were given the task of writing different Limerick poems, and successfully managed to learn the correct rhyming pattern and design.

Recommended Books for Year 4:

- *Daedalus and Icarus: Children's Theatre Play*, by Tyler Collins. A script and play for children that covers the story of Daedalus and Icarus, a father and son bidding to overcome a common enemy. It is a good drama book that teaches children about a famous myth and also helps them understand the layout of a playscript.
- *Romulus and Remus: The Twins Who Made Rome Mythology*, by Baby Professor. An educational book about the creation of Rome. A challenging book for Year 4.
- *The Secret Zoo*, by Bryan Chick. A fun mystery and fantasy book about teamwork and friendships that relates to our work on animals and their habitats.



Mathematics

In Mathematics, the students began the term by focusing on Place Value – a hugely important topic that will link in with many others over the course of the academic year. Together, we utilised different skills such as partitioning, rounding and ordering various numbers. The students then incorporated their understanding of Place Value into Addition and Subtraction. Here, we worked up to more challenging concepts within the strand like addition and subtraction of 4-digit numbers with exchange, as well as incorporating estimations to check our answers.

In the second term, the students focused on Length and Perimeter. Together, we identified different units of measurement ranging from millimetres to kilometres. The students also participated in a Measuring Scavenger Hunt, using a selection of measuring apparatus to find objects of varying lengths. Year 4 finished the term with Multiplication and Division. Together, we explored times tables facts, giving particular emphasis to the 2s, 5s and 10s before moving on to 3s, 6s and 9s. Recall of multiplication facts is an area that students can continue to practise at home, as this skill will be used in term two to solve much more challenging questions.

It has been an incredible effort by all the students, and we shall look to build on all this in term 2.



Completing a Group Maths Challenge

Science

The central themes of this term have been 'States of Matter' and 'Animal Habitats'. Students began the term by learning about the three different states of matter and exploring how these states are formed and how they can change from one state to another. Students participated in an exciting experiment in which they saw first-hand how states can change. Children learned how to conduct an experiment safely and how to ensure fair and reliable results.

We later looked at living things and their habitats, learning about how animals adapt to their surroundings and how humans are having a big effect on many different species. Children learned important vocabulary such as prey, predator, consumer, producer, global warming, and climate change and can now talk about the meaning of each.



Researching habitats using iPads and exploring states of matter in the Science Lab.

Topic

In Topic this term, the children learned about the Vikings and North America. They got the opportunity to investigate different elements of Viking life, paying particular attention to the Viking Longboat, which they designed and created in Art. Following this, we researched the physical and human features of countries in North America. This facilitated us in designing a travel brochure for a country of our choice within the continent, advising interested tourists on what they could expect from their holiday abroad.



Designing shields, making long boats and conducting research

P.E

This term children have been learning skills to catch and throw using different techniques. We have competed, in different competitions, which has allowed children to develop their own decision-making abilities and, more importantly, be able to evaluate them. Additionally, athletics skills and methods have been acquired, allowing children to access different athletics



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events and to compete. Children have also made the most of the opportunity to partake in our sports tournaments at lunch time.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it has been a very active term and students have been engaged in a range of activities. Again, I would like to take this moment to share my thanks with you all and I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Best Wishes,

The Year 4 Team

Queridas familias de Year 4:

Resulta increíble lo rápido que ha pasado este primer trimestre. Quiero comenzar esta carta agradeciendo a todas las familias el apoyo mostrado diariamente.

Como cada año uno de los objetivos principales es inculcar en los alumnos la importancia de leer, descubriendo en los libros mundos inimaginables, personajes extraordinarios y argumentos sorprendentes. Además, en Year 4 han analizado distintos textos, guiándoles a través de preguntas; ¿Por qué esta historia tiene ese final?, ¿serías capaz de escribir otro?, ¿En qué pensaba el escritor cuando creaba personajes tan dispares?, ¿Por qué un escritor decide ese comienzo y no otro? Como siempre, las respuestas que los alumnos ofrecen cuando se les da la oportunidad de pensar más allá, son sorprendentes.



Han creado animales fantásticos, reinos independientes de las historias leídas y argumentos, en los que han podido poner en práctica todas las características de este género literario. Muchos han sido los escritores que a lo largo del trimestre les han servido de inspiración para componer sus propios textos. Se han convertido en científicos y arqueólogos creando sus propias biografías, explicando todos los méritos que habían conseguido. A través de este trabajo han mostrado su gran creatividad. Además, han trabajado la expresión oral presentando individualmente sus propias biografías.

El cuaderno de ortografía que están creando les plantea semanalmente retos ortográficos, que les permiten conocer la correcta escritura de las palabras. Además, en clase han descubierto que la acentuación, un concepto complicado de inicio, también puede ser divertido, trabajándolo a través de diferentes juegos. Uno de los retos que más gustó y motivó a los alumnos fue crear su propio juego, que explicaron después delante de toda la clase y tuvieron la oportunidad de poner en práctica sus creaciones.





En ciencias Sociales este trimestre los alumnos han visto la diferencia entre los mapas físicos y políticos. Han aprendido y viajado por Europa, siendo capaces de situar los principales países, además de las montañas y ríos más importantes. Han aprendido también las diferentes formas de relieve que hay en España, situando las montañas principales y los ríos más importantes.



Por último, aprovecho para desearos feliz navidad rodeados de vuestra familia.

Miss Fátima