

This term, **History** will concentrate on the time period in which WW1 took place and the events leading up to, during and after this was. Year 4 will explore this significant era in British History through a range of historical sources, including maps, videos and an off-site visit. We will be considering how reliable these sources are and using them as further inspiration for our own writing.

With **Geography**, we will focus on the skills of map reading using grid references and compasses. We will familiarise ourselves with key locations in our world and in Europe, looking at how this continent has changed since WW1. A comparison between then and now in Nottingham will form the basis of an exciting and informative visit to Nottingham City Centre in November, in which we will investigate human land use. The physical side of geography will be investigated through the 'Trent to Trenches' WW1 link. We will consider the roles of our River as well as other rivers in France in carving our landscape and settlements.

In **French**, year 4 will continue to explore and revise numbers, colours and greetings through a series of games, texts and written activities.

Music will lead us to explore singing and how this raised spirits and morale during WW1. Music Hall songs and Remembrance songs will be key in helping us to explore the range of ways we can make music with our voice and tuned and un-tuned instruments. Year 4 are also lucky enough to be working with the Becket School Music team, with whom we will create a band and learn to play instruments such as recorder, trumpet and ukulele.

With **Art**, the year 4s will look at a range of war artists and their art as well as other notable early 20th artists such as Picasso and Morris. The movements of cubism and sculpture will be studied alongside many mediums, even iPad art!

Finally, **Design and Technology** will learn from the techniques used to construct shelters in WW1, planning, researching, designing and making similar trench shelters, all in collaboration with each other.

How you can help:

- Correct school PE kits will be needed **every day**. Kits should be appropriate for the season i.e. both outdoor and indoor kits are needed for the winter months.
- Children receive weekly homework which is collected in on Tuesdays. Please help them by reminding them to get their diary signed for every Tuesday. They are where possible given seven days to complete all homework tasks.
- It is so important that the children know their number facts. Multiplication, division, addition and subtraction facts are the basis of everything else that is learnt in Maths. Children will have weekly number facts to learn and quizzed on them every Tuesday.
- Spellings— unless learning lines and lyrics, children will have a set of spellings to learn each week, to be tested every Tuesday. Please keep checking them on these daily. Writing them down is effective.
- Read with your child every day, and ask them questions about the text. Record in their diaries the pages they have read and initial this to enable good communication with home and school. This recording is seen as evidence that they have read everyday and is treated as homework.
- Take a look at Year 4s class page and blog for more information! brwacademy.com



KEY DATES

- 14th October 2014: Parents' Evening
- 15th October 2014: Parents' Afternoon
- 11th November 2014: WW1 Remembrance Poetry Recital
- 20th November 2014: City Centre Visit and Horrible Histories Theatre Visit
- 4th December 2014: KS2 Advent Celebration 7pm
- 12th December 2014: Carols Around the Tree 6pm
- 17th December 2014: Christmas Lunch



OFFSITE EDUCATIONAL LEARNING

Alongside year 3, we hope to extend our knowledge and understanding of **WW1** and Nottingham's role in this war by visiting Nottingham City Centre to conduct fieldwork in Old Market Square, comparing the land use then and now and enjoy a 'Horrible Histories' theatre performance of this very time period. We know this visit will be invaluable to the pupils' understanding of the impact of this war.

Lastly, in this first letter of year 4, we would like to say how much we are looking forward to working together with you in supporting all of the year four pupils. We appreciate the commitment and dedication from home and look forward to the pupils growing in confidence, independence and maturity in their final year of lower key stage 2!

WW1 Venture to Victory:



At What Cost?



Year 4

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2014

A warm welcome to all the new pupils and parents of Year 4! We hope you had a wonderful and restful summer and are ready for the exciting Autumn term ahead!

BRW will be embarking on 'The Year of Adventure' for 2014-2015, and our theme for the Autumn term is no exception to adventure. We will be exploring WW1 and the way in which the Allies ventured to victory, as well as considering at what positive and negative costs. **WW1 Venture to Victory: At What Cost?** will be our memorable title, from which we hope to learn a lot and grow ourselves as wise and learned adventurers!

Science activities will explore a range of phenomena linked to WW1 and forces such as air resistance of planes and Zeppelins, as well as the changing state of materials from gas, to liquid to solids, all within an investigative scientific curriculum.

In **Computing** we will continue the theme of WW1 by designing, writing and debugging programmes to create animations linked to the many rivers that played a role in WW1 battles. Pupils will continue to harness their understanding of the algorithms behind computing services and how to use the World-Wide-Web confidently and safely. Furthermore, Word, PowerPoint and Publisher will continue to be used so that children can perfect their skills and understanding in these.

We have two specific activities in **PE** this term which focus on games to perfect throwing, catching and control skills and Outdoor and Adventure Games, in which children will exercise their map reading skills as well as use of muscles! Appropriate kit will be needed everyday as usual.



RE will enable the children to explore:

- 'People' in Christianity, and how the people in our families shape our ideas, beliefs and actions.
- 'Called' in which we will consider how being 'chosen' can change our lives and the lives of those around us.
- 'Gift', where we look towards Jesus' birth and prepare for this special gift from God.

In **English**, we will be reading 'War Game' by Michael Foreman. This historical setting describes life for soldiers during the Great War in a sensitive and profound way, enabling us to explore and remember this war at the centenary of its outbreak. This along with other related non-fiction and poetry books will inspire us as readers and writers. A range of text types will be studied, such as reports, narrative descriptions, information and explanation texts as well as recounts.

In **Mathematics**, we will build on our learning from previous years, re-visiting and refining mental and written methods; revising place value and number facts regularly; converting between a range of measures and analysing and representing data in a range of charts.



EXTRA INFORMATION FOR PARENTS→

Each week the **children will be expected to:**

- Practise and learn spellings ready for the weekly quiz.
- Practise and learn number facts ready for the weekly quiz.
- Read each night and evidence their reading.
- Complete a wider task linked to their learning in class. These are usually very open and aim to enable the pupils to get creative...and enjoy their homework! Occasionally, children may receive longer term projects in place of weekly wider tasks.
- Complete the above in seven days. Please note that at this point in school, children should spend between 2 and 2.5 hours a week in total on their homework, becoming more and more independent with this.



Parents' role:

- Sign the homework diary each week once you've seen your child's homework in time for the due date.
- Let us know if they particularly enjoyed, were interested in or struggled with any of the tasks.
- Indicate in the homework diary if they spent the time on the task but couldn't complete it. If a task is too difficult, we encourage children to tell us this before the due date. Alternatively, children who struggle / have misplaced their homework sheet and do not have time to replace it often do a different activity of their choosing. This still shows excellent common sense and commitment to learning outside of school!
- Let us know if there is a genuine reason why the homework could not be completed in the seven days given.
- You may find useful websites for reading and number facts on our class blog page.
- Support and encourage, but avoid 'doing' the homework! The more independent and self-organised the children become in year 4, the more prepared they will be for upper key stage 2.

Access to the internet: the children can use the pcs at school any break time if they are having problems gaining access to the internet at home. School printers are also available at break times and there will be a 'dropbox' option on the blog for children to leave documents.