

Year 4 Newsletter (Spring)



Our topic this term: **The Curse of the Tomb**

- Panda Class will be taught by Miss Gorringer and Mr Hackett and supported by Miss Phillips
- Panther Class will be taught by Mr Llewelyn and supported by Mrs Kanyuka and Miss Roe

English

We continue to follow the Talk 4 Writing approach when teaching English at Beecroft Academy. Our new genre for the term is **adventure stories** and we will be studying the text **The Adventure at Sandy Cove**. The children will be learning the text and then creating our own version. We have provided a copy for you to share at home. Later in the term we will look at **discussion texts**, where we will be focussing on the text **Is Watching Television Good for You?** We will share a copy of this text with you when our new unit starts. Our class reader is *The Demon Dentist*, by David Walliams.

At home:

Spelling – The children all have a spelling book which is sent home along with reading records. Spellings should be practised at home and school daily.

Handwriting - We are having a big push on handwriting. Help children by showing them how to form letters correctly, including in their homework books.

Reading- Read with your child each evening and write a comment in their reading diary. We are also encouraging the children to read more for pleasure, so we advise regular trips to the library.

English homework is set fortnightly on a Friday.

Maths

In maths we are concentrating on **written calculation methods, fractions and decimals, statistics, measures, time and geometry**.

By the end of Year 4 the children need to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. We will be practising times tables daily in school.

At home:

Times tables- We are trying extremely hard to achieve our times tables championships in Year 4. Please practise times tables at home with your child. Maths homework is set fortnightly on a Friday

PE

Our PE slots for the year are as follows:

Panda Class – Tuesday and Friday

Panther Class – Tuesday and Friday

To help us out please could their PE kits be in school all week. One session will be outside each week, so please ensure your child has black tracksuit trousers and a red Beecroft jumper especially as the weather gets colder. Your child will be trying their hand at basketball, cricket, dodgeball and gymnastics this term. In addition to this, Panda Class will start their swimming

lessons after the February half-term and Panther Class will go during the Summer Term. More information regarding this will follow in due course.

At home:

PE kit should be a white t-shirt, black or blue coloured shorts, black tracksuit trousers, red jumper and trainers or plimsolls. Make sure all their kit is labelled clearly with their name and class and is kept in a named bag in a box.

Creative curriculum

Our topic this half term is **The Curse of the Tomb**. The children will be learning all about the Ancient Egyptians.

At home:

Each week your child will bring home their homework log. In this you will receive fortnightly maths and English homework and their work linked to the creative curriculum. You and your child may choose to complete any of the activities on the front sheet of your log when you would like.

Science:

In our science lessons in Year 4 we will be looking closely at different **Sound and Electricity**. We will be testing and creating our own working circuits, as well as looking testing to see which materials are conductors or insulators.

Reminders and dates

Uniform: Please make sure that all new uniform is clearly labelled in case it is misplaced. That way it can be returned to the correct class as soon as it is located.

Website: Remember to check the class pages regularly for newsletters, texts, updates and photos from work in class.

Homework: This will be sent home every Friday and is due in on the Wednesday of the week after. Homework will now be set by the class teacher and will be weekly. It will alternate between Maths and English.

Friday 3rd February- Dick Whittington theatre performance

Friday 3rd February- PTA Discos

Friday 10th February- Last day of the half term

Monday 13th February- Friday 17th February- half term

Monday 20th February- children return to school

Monday 27th February- Panda Class swimming starts

Thursday 2nd March- World Book Day

Wednesday 8th March- Parent consultations

Friday 10th March- Panda Class Assembly

Friday 24th March- Panther Class Assembly

Monday 13th March- Friday 17th March- Science Week

Thursday 16th March- Parent consultations

Friday 24th March- Comic Relief

Friday 7th April- last day of term

Adventure at Sandy Cove

“Hurry up,” shouted Joe as he climbed over the rocks. Carefully, Rahul followed. The two boys stopped at a rock pool and began to search for shells. “Hey, what’s this?” shouted Joe to Rahul. In the rock pool was a small, black box wrapped in plastic. The boys tugged it loose. What was inside? Joe pressed the silver catch and the lid popped open. The box was full of sparkling jewels!

At that moment, a scruffy old man shouted at the boys. His wolf-like dog barked menacingly. Joe snapped the lid down, picked up the box and the two boys began to scramble over the rocks. They slipped and struggled towards the cliffs.

“Quick! Let’s hide in here,” said Joe, rushing into a cave. It was dark and damp inside and they could hear water dripping. They felt their way further in and crouched behind a rock. Rahul’s heart pounded like a drum. All at once, the scruffy man appeared at the cave mouth. He shone a torch around. The light cast shadows on the cave wall. The children ducked down and kept as still as stone, but the dog could sense them. It padded closer and closer, growling menacingly. Rahul gripped Joe’s arm. They could see its white teeth, smell its damp hair and feel its hot meaty breath.

Suddenly there was a distant shout. ‘Here Dog!’ hissed the man, roughly grabbing its collar. “Those boys have got away. Quick. After them!” Joe and Rahul held their breath until they could hear the sound of the man and his dog stumbling back across the rocks. They waited for a long while before creeping out. Even though the beach was empty, the boys ran home as fast as they could.

At first Mum didn’t believe them. It was only when Joe opened the box that she decided to call the police. When the police arrived they told Mum that the big house up the road had been burgled only the night before. They had spent all day searching for a trace of the jewels. Their only clue had been the footprints of a large dog. Joe shut his eyes. He could imagine the headlines: ‘PRICELESS JEWELS FOUND BY SCHOOLBOY DETECTIVES. And there was a reward too!