

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Welcome back after the summer break.

We hope you have all had a wonderful holiday and are ready for the start of an exciting new year. Below you will find an overview of the topic for this term. We have also included some key information and dates for your diary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to pop in and see one of the Class 4 team.



Term 1 Topic: *India*



Class 4's first topic of the year will take children on an exotic adventure, as they journey through the mystical lands of India. We will begin by studying some of the country's amazing buildings and architecture. Pupils will learn the importance of team work as they are faced with the challenge of building their very own Taj Mahal!

In English, we will be enjoying some traditional stories from India. Pupils will explore several short stories through drama, before learning to retell the stories using a range of storytelling techniques. They will then use green screen to capture their storytelling skills on film. Pupils will go on to use what they have learnt about traditional stories to plan and write their own fantastic short story. Later in the term, we will move on to our first non-fiction piece of writing. Pupils will use some good - and not quite so good - instructions to make different Indian crafts. They will then discuss which ones were most effective and why, before using what they have learnt to write their own set of instructions for creating a diva lamp.

Throughout this topic, pupils will be developing a range of mathematical skills. We will be measuring our 3D model of the Taj Mahal and comparing to the real thing! Pupils will learn to measure accurately, find the area and perimeter for our structure and convert between units of measurement. Furthermore, pupils will develop their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes as they explore and investigate the beautiful geometric patterns and artwork in Indian culture.

Pupils will have fun developing their atlas and map reading skills as they race against each other to locate key regions and places in India. They will compare and contrast landscapes across the country and between countries too, including our own. We will also be learning about the differences between rich and poor people in India; pupils will use this knowledge to consider the issues of fairness and inequality more generally.

In RE, we will be comparing some of the main religions in India - Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism. We will focus on pilgrimages and think about important journeys that we all take in life. This topic will include a visit to a Sikh Gurdwara (see further details below). We will also be learning about Buddhism and the art of meditation. Later in the term, we will take part in our very own Diwali and Holi festivals - expect an explosion of colour!

During our art lessons, we will study some of India's most beautiful and iconic creatures. To begin with, pupils will be creating their own Indian elephants using recycled milk bottles. They will then experiment with different textures and colours to create their own India elephant collages. Later in the term, we will be looking at the national bird of India - the peacock - to create a giant whole-class piece of artwork! Lastly, we will be continuing with our 'eco art' as we make our own colourful Diwali decorations using recycled CDs - please see the note below regarding a request for more materials.

Other subjects ...

PE – Class 4 will be kicking off the term (quite literally) by developing their footballing skills. Pupils will learn to develop their ball control, passing and dribbling skills through a number of fun games. The term will end with an inter-class tournament. Please make sure your child has outdoor and indoor PE kit (clearly labelled) in school at all times.

Music – During terms 1 and 2, Class 4 will be participating in 'Access to Music' sessions. *NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)* will be coming into school on a Wednesday afternoon to teach the children how to play the ukulele. This will culminate in a special concert at the end of the two terms.

Helping your child at home ...

It's really important that your child continues to read regularly at home, even as they become a more independent reader. Reading to others, being read to and discussing books together is key to overall achievement in reading and wider success in school.

We will continue to run the reading reward system as before (at least five times a week at home). It is always great to hear about the books and stories pupils are enjoying out of the classroom as well as in school.

Homework will be handed out on a Friday and it will be due in by the following Wednesday. Pupils will have a learning log homework every two weeks, which will focus on a different theme – normally this will relate to topic being studied in class.

Learning log tasks are designed to be open ended to give the children the opportunity to show their learning in a creative and individual way. A typical sequence for completing the learning log might be to research and take notes, plan the layout - deciding on what text and images you will include - and then present the research in best.

Please can you emphasise the importance of neat presentation and careful editing at home, as this will continue to be a big focus in school.

On alternate weeks to the learning logs, pupils will be given one piece of maths homework and one piece of English homework. It is also important that pupils continue to practise times tables and spellings at home. Each child will have a set of times tables to focus on and key spellings to learn.

Class 4 information ...

PE will be on Monday and Friday afternoons. Children should have outdoor and indoor PE kit (clearly labelled) in school at all times.

We will also be incorporating outdoor learning into the curriculum across the year. Therefore, we are requesting that pupils always have waterproof/old clothing that can remain in school at all times. Wellington boots would also be preferable but outdoor shoes are fine as alternatives.

We have *LifeWorld's Learning* coming into school to run a 'Me and My World' workshop on Tuesday 12th September. The day will involve pupils taking part in a series of interactive activities linked to our topic. We are also hoping to visit the Sikh Gurdwara in Leamington and a separate letter will be sent out shortly to confirm the details.

Class 4's curriculum meeting will be on Monday 11th September at 5.00 pm. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes. At the meeting, we will share a brief overview of the topics being covered this year and key areas of learning. There will also be some handouts for parents to use to support children with their learning at home.

This term's parent share will be on Wednesday 18th October from 9.00 - 9.30 am.