

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Welcome back!

We hope you all had a very enjoyable holiday. We will be starting a brand new topic this term called 'It's Electric' and we have lots of great things planned. This term's topic has a big science focus and we will be learning about the exciting world of electricity and exploring all things electrical.

Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Sharp



Term 2 Topic: *It's Electric!*



To start the topic, Class 4 looked at what life was like before the use of modern electrical appliances. Jo from *Teach Outdoors* ran a fire pit session, where children learnt how to use a flint and steel to start their own fire. Pupils foraged for natural materials and made their own tools, ready for their own camp fire treat. During the day, pupils also explored different ways of creating energy. Some of these activities included investigating turbines and making an anemometer to measure wind speed. Pupils also wrote and performed their own poems for around the camp fire. This exciting day was paid for from a generous contribution by *The Friends of Bliss* and we would like to thank *The Friends* for helping us to kick start our topic in such an exciting way. Thank you!

In English, we will be reading the fantastic book 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and exploring the related poem by Brenda Williams. Children will each have their own copy of the book, which they will use to do a number of book-related studies. This will include identifying language features and the effects on the reader, as well as a range of drama activities. The class will then use the book study to inspire their own piece of writing based on 'The Iron Man'; this will include a newspaper article written about a key event in the story and instructions for making their own Iron Man robot.

In mathematics, we will be measuring the lengths of different electrical circuits and learning how changing the length of the wires can produce different outcomes. Pupils will compare electrical consumption between countries and work out the differences in usage. The class will also carry out a data handling task to monitor the school's use of electrical items. Away from topic-related work, we will be focusing on written methods for multiplication and division and looking at equivalent fractions.

Our science work will run through many of our curriculum areas this term; some key areas include identifying common appliances that run on electricity, learning about electrical safety, constructing simple electrical circuits and making predictions about whether a circuit will work or not. Pupils will then use all what they have learnt to create their very own Iron Man that lights up. Throughout the topic, pupils will also be considering and evaluating alternative energy.

In history, pupils will create a timeline of electrical inventions. They will research famous inventors and rank inventions based on their interpretation of its contribution to society. Pupils will also study images of different homes throughout time and put them in chronological order based on their understanding of key historical developments.

Our art will be linked to our topic and science work. We will be creating iron man collages, looking at robotic art by established artists and creating 'light catching' 3D pieces of art. It will also be coming to that time of year when we create 'Christmas' art and DT projects soon too.

In ICT we will be looking at programming and de-bugging. Children will be using software such as *Scratch* to write and de-bug

Other subjects ...

PE – Class 4 will be starting tag-rugby this term. Pupils will participate in a range of fun games aimed at developing their catching and passing skills; learning different techniques for attacking and defending; and gaining an understanding of the rules for tag-rugby. Towards the end of the term, we will hold a mini tournament for pupils to bring all the skills they have learnt together in a fun and competitive way.

Music – Class 4 will be continuing their fantastic work with *NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)* in their ukulele sessions. This will culminate in a special concert later in the term (Wednesday 29th November at 2:20). Outside of the timetabled music lesson, we will be looking at 'robotic' and 'metal' music genres.

Helping your child at home ...

Homework will continue to be handed out on a Friday and it will be due in by the following Wednesday.

- Learning Logs:

Pupils will have 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 to 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 class.

- English and mathematics homework:

On alternate weeks to the learning logs, pupils will be given maths and English homework.

As mentioned at parents evening, spelling bookmarks will go home inside the reading journals. New focus words will be added regularly throughout the term. These will be common words that pupils are misspelling in their writing and/or words taken from the spelling unit for the term. The 'Spelling Bee' activities are intended to be used at home throughout the term and we do not expect the whole set of activities to be completed at once. Pupils will be given a spelling bee sticker for each activity they complete successfully. 'Spelling Bee' certificates will be awarded at the end of the term when pupils have achieved 10 stickers. Please can you remind your child to keep their spelling bookmarks inside their reading journals so these are returned to school and can be updated.

My Maths will be starting within the first 2 weeks of the new term. More information regarding this super maths homework tool has already been sent home. It is also important that pupils continue to practise times tables in their own time.

Please also continue to read regularly at home and remind your child to update their reading records. They should be reading at least five times a week. We hope to see lots of children achieving their bronze reading certificates in assembly this term.

Class 4 information ...

PE will continue to be on Monday and Friday afternoons. It was fantastic to see so many children wearing the correct PE kit and looking so smart. Just a reminder though to make sure all kit is labelled and that pupils always have their kit in school.

I would like to thank parents for sending in their recycled bottles. The class have used these to create a very eye-catching floral display in Class 4's outside area. Thank you!

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