

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Welcome back after the summer break.

We hope you 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 come in and see one of the Class 4 team.

Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. East



Term 1 Topic: *India*



Class 4's first topic of the year will take the 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 and learning about the art of storytelling. The pupils will compare a range of folktales and fables in preparation for writing their own fantastic fable to perform to an audience. 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 their shape and space skills. As they build their models of the Taj Mahal, they will investigate the properties of solid shapes and practice accurate measuring in order to compare the size of their models to the real thing. Furthermore, pupils will develop their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes as they explore the geometric patterns and artwork found 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 learning about some of the main religions in India – Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism. We will focus on the symbolism of light and darkness, looking at the common ground between religions and their symbols, as well as the distinctiveness of different faiths. Later in the term, we will take part in our very own Diwali and Holi festivals – expect delicious cuisine and an explosion of colour!

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

Other subjects ...

PE – Class 4's first games unit of the year will be tag rugby. Please make sure your child has outdoor and indoor PE kit (clearly labelled) in school at all times. Information about swimming lessons will be sent home separately and shared at the curriculum meeting.

Music – During Terms 1 and 2, Class 4 will be participating in 'First Access' music sessions. *NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)* will be coming into school one afternoon a week to teach the children how to play a musical instrument. 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 task every two weeks, which will focus on a different theme – normally this will relate to the topic being studied in class.

Learning log tasks are open ended and designed 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 to 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 or English homework. Some weeks this will be My Maths homework. It is also important that pupils continue to learn their 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.

Class 4's curriculum meeting will be on Monday 17th September at 3.30pm. 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 to help parents support their children with learning at home.

This term's parent share is planned for Wednesday 17th October from 9.00 - 9.30 am, but is subject to change. More information will be sent out nearer to the time.