

Class 4

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Welcome back! It has been a long time coming but we are so excited to be welcoming you all back to school. We are really looking forward to meeting our new class and getting started on all the fun things we have planned for our topic.

Below you will find an overview of the topic for this term. We have also included some information about how you can help with your child's learning at home. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Class 4 team.

Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Griffiths



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. During this topic, we will be immersing ourselves in Indian culture through storytelling and drama, art activities, cooking and even some Indian dancing!

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.

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 different regions in India and consider the issues of fairness and inequality more generally.

In RE, we will be learning about some of the main religions in India – predominantly 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 are hoping to take part in our very own Diwali festival – expect delicious cuisine and fun arts and crafts!

During our art lessons, we will study some of India's most beautiful creatures. To begin with, we will be using oil pastels to create our own Indian elephants, followed by looking at the national bird of India, the peacock, to create some stunning observational art! Later in the term, we will be studying one of India's most iconic buildings, the Taj Mahal, and creating an amazing collage. Children will also get the opportunity to work with clay, designing and making diva lamps to coincide with the festival of Diwali.

Other subjects ...

Maths – We will start the term by focusing on place value. Children will learn to represent, compare and order numbers to 10,000. They will develop their understanding of Roman numerals and build on their rounding skills using larger numbers.

Science – Children will be exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Pupils will learn about Carl Linnaeus and his work in classifying animals and plants.

PE – Class 4 will be working on developing their agility, balance and coordination skills this term as we begin our Real PE sessions. Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on the correct days (Monday and Thursday for Class 4).

Music – This term, Class 4 will be listening and responding to a variety of traditional and modern Indian music styles. We will also be using the Charanga music programme to develop our musical skills, knowledge and understanding.

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 - This 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 – These 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. On alternate weeks to the learning logs, pupils may be given one piece of maths (including MyMaths) or literacy homework where appropriate.

Please can you emphasise the importance of neat presentation and careful editing at home.

Times Tables - There will continue to be a big focus this year on children learning their times tables and being able to recall these at speed. This will really improve their ability to problem solve in mathematics more widely. It is important that pupils continue to practise these at home regularly.

Spellings – Children will bring home a termly spelling list (with 10 words allocated to each week). They will then be tested every fortnight on a mixture of 10 spellings from the previous 2 weeks. See separate sheet for more information.