



Tel: 01740 651599
Email: clevescross@durhamlearning.net
Web: www.clevescross.durham.sch.uk/

Cleves Cross Primary and
Nursery School
Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY



Autumn 1a 2020



A very warm welcome back! What a year it has been! I know that most of you can't wait to return to school and a little bit of normality. I know I'm certainly ready for that! Well, it's not quite completely back to normal but we are still going to have some amazing experiences, enhance our knowledge and maybe have a little bit of fun in the process.

English

Our English work will be closely linked to our History topic – the Romans. We will begin the term learning about Roman Mythology and read several Roman Myths including Romulus and Remus. We will then move on to a novel by Terry Dreary (The Horrible Histories creator) called The Captive Celt. Both narrative units of work will provide many writing opportunities including writing their own myth, diary entries, persuasive letter writing, setting descriptions and diary entries.

Reading continues to be vitally important and children are encouraged to read as regularly as possible. Children should be reading for a range of purposes so please don't feel that reading should be limited to their school reading book. There are lots of opportunities to read in day-to-day activities e.g. reading the shopping list, the menu in a restaurant or a set of game instructions for their games console. All of these things will help develop your child's understanding. Spelling is also vitally important and spelling lists will be sent home on a weekly basis. Spelling activities will also be allocated using Spelling Shed. If you have any issues accessing this resource, please contact school.

Maths

We will begin our Maths enhancing our knowledge of place-value, up to 10000. This forms the foundations for all of the future maths topics and is extremely important for children to understand. With that in mind, don't be concerned if your child says we have been learning about thousands, hundreds, tens and ones for almost 5 weeks! We will then use this in-depth knowledge to explore addition and subtraction of 3 and 4-digit numbers. Children will have the opportunity to explore different mathematical concepts in a number of different ways including practically using a range of equipment, pictorial – drawing diagrams and images to aid their understanding and finally in abstract ways – using more conventional and formal written methods for calculations.

Children will also be focusing on their Times Tables knowledge. The expectation in Year 4 is that children know all of their facts up to 12 x 12. Please ensure that children practice the multiplication and division facts regularly. Children still have access to a number of online resources to help them do this including; Times Table Rock Stars, Conquer Maths and Hit the Button.

Science

Science will be taught discreetly this half term and is based on States of Matter. Children will develop their understanding of solids, liquids and gases. They will have the opportunity to complete some investigations to see how some substances can change between the different states and how this can be affected by heating and cooling.

History

In History we will be learning about the impact the Romans had on Britain and what changes took place because of their invasion almost 2000 years ago. Children will have the opportunity to investigate Roman artefacts and to explore the ways in which the Romans still impact our life today.

Computing

In Computing we will be developing our coding skills using Scratch. Children will use variables to create a Roman inspired game. They will need to think carefully about their coding and the game design. There will be opportunities for children to assess each other's games and debug any code that isn't behaving how they would like.





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Art

In our Art sessions, children will have the opportunity to complete some research based on Roman Mosaics. We will complete work on how they were made and why they are so important to historians and how they have enhanced our knowledge of Roman life. Children will be creating their own Roman mosaics using magazines. It would be a great help if these could be sent into school for children to cut up and use. A brilliant way to recycle!



PSHE

We will be following our school SEAL programme and the theme for this half term is 'New Beginnings' – we will look at facing changes and new starts positively. Now, I know that some of you may be feeling a little nervous about returning to school; that is absolutely fine and understandable. The 'new normal' is not everyone's cup-of-tea and is taking some adjusting to. I'm here to let you know that myself and Mrs Brown are here to help you along the way. It is okay to be nervous or a bit scared. It is okay to not be okay. Now that might sound a little strange, but we understand that for a lot of you coming back to school may be the first time you have been around people who were not in your family 'bubble'. And that can be daunting. We will be spending time thinking about our feelings and ways in which we can express these in a healthy way. We will have the opportunity to explore some mindfulness techniques and develop strategies in how to deal with our worries and anxieties.

RE

Our focus for this half term will be thinking about what we know about the Bible and why it is important to Christians. Children will have the opportunity to explore the history and content of the holy book and discuss its relevance to the Christian faith.

Spanish

Children will continue to learn Spanish this year and will complete the activities from Year 3. We will be learning about different foods in Spanish by reading 'The Very hungry Caterpillar' in Spanish. Children will have the opportunity to practice their speaking and listening skills and their written Spanish.

PE

Unfortunately, due to the current climate, swimming will not be taking place this term. Due to the social-distancing and current cleaning and hygiene guidance, Durham County Council pools have not reopened. Therefore, children will have 2 sessions of PE per week. These are timetabled for a Monday and Thursday. We are fortunate enough to be working with a football coach on a Monday. During these sessions, children will have the opportunity to develop their dribbling skills, ball control, their understanding of defending and attacking and play some games of football. The second session will be based on Outdoor and Adventure Activities. Children will be completing some orienteering, problem solving and team-building activities.

On these days, children can come to school in jogging/tracksuit bottoms or leggings and trainers ready for the lesson. They can wear shorts beneath these if they like but, as the majority of our PE will be outside, I think warmer clothing would be more suitable.

Homework

Homework will be allocated on a Friday and will be due to be handed in on a Tuesday. This may be an online activity, completing an activity to enhance or consolidate the learning from class or it may be a practical activity.

I can't wait to get to know you all over the next year. I know that we are going to have lots of fun and enjoy learning how to learn in these strange times. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact school. We also have the Year 4 email address y4cleves@cclt.education if you would like to contact via email.

Yours Sincerely

The Year 4 Team!
(Miss Robinson and Mrs Brown)

