

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 working with our new class this year 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 email the Class 4 team.

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.

Throughout this topic, pupils will be developing their shape and space skills. Pupils will develop their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes as they explore the geometric patterns and artwork found in Indian culture. We will then be combining our mathematics with our geographical understanding, as we solve a range of real life problems involving the distances between some famous places and landmarks in India. There will also be a Himalayas climbing maths challenge – can pupils make it to the top?

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 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 a range of materials to create colourful decorated elephants, followed by looking at the national bird of India, the peacock, to create a giant whole-class piece of artwork! 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 ...

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 has outdoor and indoor PE kit (clearly labelled) in school at all times. Class 4 PE is on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

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.

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 great to hear about the books and stories pupils are enjoying out of the classroom as well as in school.

Homework

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 Logs:

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. 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 literacy homework. Some weeks this will be *My Maths* homework.

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:

A list of 10 spellings will go home every Friday for children to practise. They will then be tested every fortnight on a mixture 10 spellings from the previous 2 weeks.

There is information on our times tables class reward system and spellings in more detail on the curriculum presentation that will be sent out next week.