

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 discovered some unusual objects scattered across the playground. We brought them back to class to investigate further and found an exciting package waiting for us in the classroom too. It contained 25 copies of 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and, by reading the beginning of the story, the children were able to piece together the objects to create a huge Iron Man model for our classroom.

Over the course of the term, we will read the complete story of 'The Iron Man' and explore the related poem by Brenda Williams. The children will use their own copy of the book to do a number of book-related studies, including identifying language features and their effects on the reader as well as a range of drama activities. The class will then use the book study to inspire their own writing; this will include a newspaper article written about a key event in the story.

In mathematics, we will begin by using pictures and models of The Iron Man to improve our measuring and scaling skills. This will include measuring in mm, cm and metres and converting between these units of length. We will attempt to use the information in the story to draw The Iron Man to scale on the playground. Away from our topic-related work, we will be focusing on written methods for multiplication and division, and families of common equivalent fractions. Please remind your child to practise their times tables and related division facts regularly, as this will support them with their work in school.

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 what they have learnt to create their very own Iron Man that lights up. Throughout the topic, the children will also be considering alternative energy sources and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of these from an environmental perspective.

In history, the 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 and we will be creating Iron Man collages, looking at robotic art by established artists and designing our own inventions. It will also be coming to that time of year where we create Christmas art and DT projects too. Our DT project will focus on the children creating and designing a prototype for their own invention.

In ICT we will be looking at programming and de-bugging. The children will be using software such as Scratch to write and de-bug their own simple programs. We will also be thinking about how robots and machines are controlled.

Other subjects ...

PE – This term's Real PE focus will be on developing children's social skills and ability to work collaboratively. Pupils will learn to take on different roles and responsibilities during a range of fun team activities. They will also be learning how to jump, land and balance effectively. PE will continue to be on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure children have appropriate PE kit suitable for outdoors in the colder weather and that long hair is tied back.

Music – In our music lessons, we will be looking at 'robotic' and 'metal' music genres.

Helping your child at home ...

Please 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.

The children now know which book band they are to choose from. Each book band includes a range of fiction genres and non-fiction titles and the children will generally be expected to have confidently read a wide range of these books and demonstrated good comprehension at that level before moving to the next book band. However, we will regularly assess your child's reading and move them on as soon as we are sure they are ready.

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

On alternate weeks to the learning logs, pupils will be given one piece of maths homework or literacy homework (most of the time maths will be set through *My Maths* online).

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.

Please look out for the overview of spellings for Term 2 which has been sent home this week. We hope this will help you and your child to re-visit the spelling patterns they have practiced previously.

Class 4 information ...

Wednesday 4th November – Fire Pit Session

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day (this supports Anti-Bullying Week, 16th-19th November)

Friday 27th November – Celebration Assembly (in class)

Friday 18th December – Christmas Jumper Day