

# Class 8 Curriculum Letter

## Spring 2

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely half term break for you all. The homework that was brought in at the end of the last half term was very impressive so thank you for all your efforts at home - it was great to see all the drawings of animal eyes and vicious Vikings! Class 8 have quickly settled back into their routines and have applied themselves superbly during our first week back. It has been a brilliant start to the half term, well done kids! We have a very busy rest of the half term filled with other exciting activities to enhance our curriculum.



This half term we are bringing a taste of America to school through our topic of 'America: Land of the Free?' We will be looking at the human and physical geographical features of the United States of America and will be designing and making our own healthy burgers. We will also be looking at some American composers and artists.

This half term will also see Year 4 begin to think about the St George's Easter Service at Church where Year 4 will lead the school and the church community in a retelling of the Easter story. Dates for rehearsals at church and the service are now on the school web calendar.

If you have any queries, concerns, or simply a question, please don't hesitate to come in and see me or any member of the senior leadership team. We will be more than happy to help! You can catch me on the yard at the end of the day or send an email to [l.hall@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:l.hall@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk).

Please find below information about the various aspects of Class 8 for this half term.

### Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce. The hand in date for the activities this half term will be the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes!' There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home tonight with this letter.



### Reading

Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands. As a junior, your child has the responsibility to change their own book when finished or when they are ready for a change. Please encourage your children to write the books they have read into their reading record, so that they can be proud of their reading achievements and even achieve one of the reading challenge certificates! Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning - predicting what will happen in the story and why, and also thinking about the characters feelings. As your child progresses through school, it is still a vital part of their learning that you hear them read aloud daily. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills. Please could you continue to sign and comment in the reading journal - it really helps! Please make sure your child has their reading journal in school everyday.

## Spellings

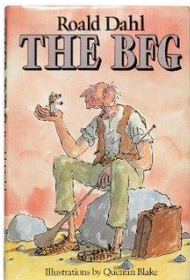
Spellings will be given out on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday. Children will have their spellings stuck in one side of their spelling book, where they will have space to 'Look, Cover, Write and Check' and tests will be carried out at the back of the book. The spellings they are given will link to the teaching that we are doing in class. Please also remember to log in to Spelling Shed at home using the login details in your blue password booklet. This is a fantastic resource to practise spellings and spelling patterns that we have been looking at in class.



## Please find below our focus for English and Maths this Half Term

### English

In English, we will be completing our biography unit where we are exploring the lives of inspirational and influential people from the past, which will result in the children producing their own biography using the features identified in our reading.



Later on in the half term, we will move onto writing our own suspense story, using a selection of short stories as our inspiration including 'The BFG' and 'The Nightmare Man' by Pie Corbett. Whilst reading, we will be using lots of active reading strategies to make comparisons within the text, infer characters' feelings and thoughts and predict what might happen. Throughout our reading of the story, we will also be exploring the use of metaphors and similes as well as creating and punctuating complex sentences and punctuating sentences correctly.

Your child will be taking part in three guided sessions throughout the week where they will be responding to a range of activities based on the chosen text. For this half-term our chosen text is: The Great Chocoplot by Chris Callaghan. For the other sessions one will be RE based and the other will be independent to develop a love of reading.

### Maths

This half term we will continue to work through the Year 4 Maths curriculum, focusing on practical activities and deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. During this half term the children will be exploring fractions. We will start look at hundredths and mixed numbers. We will then move on to finding equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting fractions. After fractions, we will look at time before moving on to decimals. You can help by supporting your child to learn their times tables **fluently up to 12x12**. This is integral to procedural methods throughout the curriculum. Don't forget to log onto 'MyMaths' to see your weekly homework which will support what we are doing in class and to log into Times Table Rock stars.



## The Half Term Ahead

### Our Week

Tuesday will be our new PE day. Please come to school in your PE kit.

Thursday - Remember your ukulele

Friday - New spellings handed out. Spellings tested.



### Foundation topics

DT - Is there  
such a thing as  
a healthy  
burger?

Geography -  
What is 'the  
land of the  
free'?

French - Ou vas-  
tu?: French  
cities, directions,  
weather.

P.E -  
How can dance  
tell a story?

R.E - How is  
Easter  
celebrated  
around the  
world?

Science - What  
if chocolate  
melted a 5  
degrees  
Celsius?

Computing -How  
can we store and  
record  
information?

Ukulele continues to be taught on a Thursday afternoon. Children do need to bring their instruments and can login to Charanga to find the music to use for practice.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child is crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in class 8, and indeed the whole school, will have another exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term.

Miss Laura Hall (Class 8 Teacher)

Mrs Nicola Gregson (Assistant Head teacher)