Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school and to Year 4!

I hope you all have had a lovely summer and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It has been wonderful getting to know the children, and I am really looking forward to everything we will achieve together this year. Year 4 is an important year as the children continue to develop their independence, confidence and responsibility for their learning. We have lots of interesting learning opportunities and experiences planned throughout the year, both inside and outside of the classroom.

We have lots of exciting learning planned for the Autumn term across all areas of the curriculum.

Below is our topic web for the Autumn term, which provides an overview of the subjects and learning the children will be exploring throughout the term. We hope this gives you an insight into what your child will be learning and provide opportunities for you to talk to them about their learning at home.

Reading
Reading at home regularly continues to be extremely important in Year 4. We encourage them to read everyday where possible, whether this is with an adult or independently.

Please continue to record your child's reading in their reading record, making a comment, it really does make a huge difference.

Homework and Spellings
Homework will continue to be set each Friday through Google Classroom and Purple Mash.

Spellings will be tested and set every Thursday.

Please encourage your child to complete their homework independently where possible, while offering support when needed.

PE
Outdoor PE is on Thursday with the sports coach and our indoor PE day is Friday. The children will need to come to school in PE kit (shorts or tracksuit bottoms, a white shirt and a fleece / sweat-shirt, we want the children to be warm!). Please ensure your child has a water bottle and any jewellery is taken off.

All homework, including spellings, will be set using Google Classroom and Purple Mash on a Friday.

Dates for your diaries:
Harvest festival – 16th October 2026
School will be closed for emergency closure which is currently scheduled for the end of November/beginning of December. Mr Hetherington will confirm dates when they have been given to us.

Should you have any questions at all please let me know.
a.harris@castlehillprimary.co.uk

Kind Regards
Abigail Harris
Year 4 Class Teacher

Year 4
Autumn Term

Maths

We aim to further develop our skills and knowledge in:

- Counting and place value beyond 1000
- Roman Numerals and negative numbers
- Addition and subtraction, developing further written methods.
- Multiplication and division strategies, including learning times-tables.
- Area

English

Through a range of quality topic-linked texts, we aim to read and write:

- Setting descriptions
- Predictions
- Story writing
- Non-chronological report

Science

We aim to:

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).
- Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.
- Identify common appliances that run on electricity.
- Explore simple electrical circuits and their components.
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

Computing

We aim to:

- Understand, plan, create and evaluate animation stories using specific software.
- Understand what a search engine is, how it works and how to use keywords to find information online.
- Learn advanced ways to improve searches so we can find the most accurate and useful results quickly.
- Judge whether information online is true and if the sources can be trusted.

P.E.

We aim to:

- Develop our athletic, fitness and gymnastics skills.
- Develop our invasion game techniques.
- Develop our dance techniques and skills.
- Develop our skills in net and wall games.
- Learn about sports from around the world and take part in some.
- Understand how wellbeing is improved through physical activity.

Art / DT

We aim to:

- Draw using tone to create a 3D effect.
- Explore how combining lines and mark making can show texture and tone in drawings.
- Understand proportion by observing how it is used in artwork.
- Understand what is an effective composition in art.
- Apply an understanding of texture, tone and proportion in a drawing.
- Create a collaborative piece of art inspired by an artist.

Music

We aim to:

- Identify the structure and texture in music.
- Use body percussion.
- Create musical rhythms using body percussion.
- Create simple tunes.
- Build and improve a composition.

Spanish

We aim to:

- Identify and pronounce Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America.
- Speak in short phrases to describe travel plans.
- Recognise prepositions **en** and **a** when describing travel.
- Say the days of the week as part of a sentence.
- Compose a travel diary.
- Perform a travel diary.

PSHE and RE:

We aim to:

- Explore the importance of having a balanced diet.
- Investigate how physical activity affects the body.
- Examine how daily habits and choices can affect our energy levels.
- Recognise when someone may need support and how to seek help.
- Understand how a growth mindset helps us to respond to challenges.
- Understand that being kind can help me too.

Geography

We aim to:

- Describe and give examples of a biome, find the Amazon rainforest in an atlas and identify some features.
- Describe the characteristics of each layer of a tropical rainforest (Amazon rainforest).
- Understand the lives of indigenous people living in the Amazon rainforest.
- Describe why tropical rainforests are important and understand the threats to the Amazon.
- Understand how the local woodland is used, using a variety of data collection methods.
- Analyse and present findings on how local woodland is used.

History

We aim to:

- Identify the continuities and changes to children's lives using a range of sources.
- Investigate why Tudor children worked and what working conditions were like.
- Research and record the working conditions of Victorian children using reports and images.
- Evaluate Lord Shaftesbury's significance to children's lives.
- To explore the changes in children's leisure time using a range of sources.
- Investigate the diseases children caught and their treatments in the Tudor and Victorian Periods.