



Nettlesworth Primary School
Front Street
Nettlesworth
Chester le Street
Durham

6th September 2023

Welcome back to Autumn 1!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone and welcome to Year 4! I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are looking forward to the new school year. We are so excited to see you all and hope you are ready to learn lots of new and interesting things!

In Class 4, we are looking forward to having lots of fun learning new things. This half term our Cornerstones topic is Road Trip USA. We'll be going on a road trip across the states of America, flying from London Gatwick and landing in places such as JFK Airport in New York! We'll be using our map skills to navigate the way around some of the USA's famous landmarks. Please keep an eye on our section of the school website to find out about all the exciting things we are doing in class.

Just a reminder for important dates for your diary:

Homework will be given out on Mondays and spellings will be given out on Wednesdays. We expect homework back in school (or on DB) by Friday morning. Our spelling tests are on Monday mornings so don't forget to practise your spellings!

Secondly, PE kits! Please send in a PE kit on a Monday and leave it at school throughout the week. We will return this home on a Friday. Our PE days change each half term depending on available coaches in school.

I am really looking forward to continuing to work with both you and your children over this half term. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Many thanks,

Mrs Edwards

Road Trip USA!



Buckle up and put your sunglasses on – this half term we're going on a road trip across the USA!

We'll start by 'visiting' the states where Native American tribes settled. We'll use travel brochures and the internet to research New York and write postcards to family members. Using maps, we'll locate the USA and find the names of the states. We'll look at the amazing lights of Times Square, make circuits and create a program for a tourist trip around New York. The story, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, will inspire us to write diaries. We'll explore Native American myths and write our own. After learning about their cultural significance, we'll weave beautiful dreamcatchers. Looking at aerial views of natural landmarks, we'll think about how they might have been formed. We'll create travel brochures and make illuminated models of different landmarks. Then we'll cook delicious dishes – would anyone like a corn dog?

At the end of the project, we'll make a 'journey stick' so we can remember where we have visited. We'll use this to explain our learning journey.

ILP focus	Geography
English	Postcards, emails, diary writing, myths and legends, poetry
Geography	Using world and US maps, human and physical geography
Art & design	Native American dreamcatchers, weaving, journey sticks
Computing	Collaborative databases and spreadsheets, using logical reasoning, writing programs, effective online research, digital presentations
D&T	Preparing US dishes, model making, totem pole design
History	Native Americans
Music	Traditional and cultural music
PSHE	Expressing opinions, stereotypes and discrimination
Science	Electricity

Help your child prepare for their project

The USA is an incredible place, with a varied landscape and culture. Why not choose a state to research together and create a scrapbook of exciting locations? You could also make a playlist of American songs from different genres that you could listen to on your road trip. Alternatively, visit the supermarket together to see if you can identify any foods associated with the USA. You might even try some of them!