



Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 2nd Half Term: February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you had an enjoyable half term and that your children are looking forward to the second half of the Spring term in Year 4.

We will start the term with our exciting **Geography** topic 'What lies beneath the surface of the Earth?' when we will be learning about volcanoes. We will discover how they are formed, identify the key features and learn about what happens when they erupt. We will also be creating and erupting our own volcanoes!

In **Science**, we will continue our topic 'In a State' and towards the end of the term our Science topic will be 'Who am I?'. This topic will give the children the opportunity to explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

In **English**, we will be reading and performing poetry and then writing our own performance poems. Following this, we will be reading 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said. We will use this text to explore character, setting, language, including similes and metaphors and viewpoints. The children will have the opportunity to develop their newspaper report and descriptive writing skills. There will continue to be a focus on learning grammar and punctuation skills, including suffixes and prefixes, irregular and regular past tense verbs and the correct use of exclamation marks. This term, spellings will focus on topic vocabulary, prefixes and suffixes and words from the Year 3 / 4 spelling list. In addition, we will continue daily reading, comprehension activities and handwriting practice.

During **Maths** sessions, we will be learning about place value in 4-digit numbers, subtracting using the column method and adding and subtracting money using both written and mental methods. We will also be rounding decimals and learning how to multiply and divide 3-digit numbers. We will also learn how to tell the time on the 24-hour clock and how to calculate perimeter. Times tables will continue to be a very important part of your child's learning as they are used in so many areas of maths.

In **RE** we will explore 'Salvation' and the Easter Story. The children will reflect upon Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We will discuss the ways Christians mark the Easter events in their church communities and make links between some of the stories and teachings in the Bible and life in the world today.

In **Design and Technology**, we will be looking at a variety of greeting cards, designing and making our own Easter card and evaluating our finished product.

Computing sessions will allow the children to explore the creative uses of IT. They will select, use and combine a variety of software on a range of digital devices. They will have the opportunity to present data in a variety of different ways.

Our **PE** sessions on Mondays will continue to be led by our professional sports coach. The focus will be developing movement skills in tennis. Please ensure children have their full PE kits (all named please) in school every day. As you are aware, children will be attending swimming lessons on Wednesdays.

Home learning for this term is as follows:

- Home-learning folders will continue to be sent home on Friday and are to be handed in on the following **Tuesday**. Please ensure children complete all home-learning. Weekly homework will include a Maths activity, an English or Topic activity and some spellings. A spelling test will take place on a Monday.
- Children should continue to read on a daily basis at home; it is extremely valuable for children to read a range of texts with parents and carers, sharing and discussing thoughts and ideas.
- Encouraging your child to practise their times tables on a regular basis will help many areas of their mathematical learning. A times tables test will take place weekly and your child is aware of the times table they should be practising.
- Practical activities, such as counting out money at the shops, reading train/bus timetables, telling the time and measuring ingredients when cooking will also help your child develop mathematical skills.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Year 4 team. Many thanks for your support.

Class teachers: Mrs Sarah Prados and Mrs Julia Oliver

Date: February 2019