

Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 2 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had an enjoyable week and your children are looking forward to a new term in year 4!

We will start the new term continuing our focus in our **Geography** topic, 'Rivers'. We will be exploring how people can change rivers as well as the very current national issue of how flooding can affect people. We will also be looking at a new topic, 'North America', where children will be identifying countries and states, comparing landscapes and making a comparison between New York and where they live.

Science we will be continuing our learning about States of Matter. We will be exploring what evaporation is and how different factors affect the rate of evaporation. Following this we will be moving onto the topic 'Who am I?'. We will be learning to identify animals from a range of habitats. We will also classify them, identifying the characteristics of the main vertebrate groups and some of the common invertebrate groups.

In **English** we will be beginning our topic by linking our Geography topic to our writing. Children will be writing an explanation text on Rivers before moving on to our exciting new text, 'Varjak Paw'. The children will be continuing to develop their reading and inference skills. Children will be writing non-chronological reports, writing suspense stories and newspaper reports. There will continue to be a focus on grammar and punctuation skills which include the revision of word classes, conjunctions, present perfect forms of verbs and the appropriate use of exclamation marks. This term, spellings will include common errors from the children's spelling log, prefixes, word endings and words from the statutory spelling list. In addition to this, we will continue daily reading, comprehension activities and handwriting practice.

During **Maths** sessions, we will be ordering, comparing and rounding decimals, adding amounts of money, telling time on 24-hour clocks, subtracting 4-digit numbers using the column method, dividing with no remainders and solving word problems. Times tables will continue to be a very important part of your child's learning and will feature as part of their daily maths lessons alongside a weekly arithmetic test.

Our learning in **RE** will be exploring 'People of God' and looking at the story of Noah and God's covenant with Noah. We will also be making connections and comparisons made in the story of Noah and Christian weddings.

Our focus in **PSHE** will be 'celebrating difference'. We will be looking at how we should not judge people by their appearance, accepting others and how we are individually special and unique.

In **DT**, the children will be making their very own pencil case, using cutting and sewing skills. They will first develop design criteria and plan how to make their pencil case. After making it, they will evaluate the process, thinking about why it appeals to the intended user and what they could do to improve it.

Our **PE** sessions will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These will continue to be led by our professional sports coach. Please ensure that children have their full PE kits (all named please) in school every day.

On a practical note, please ensure that children's pencil cases are the correct size to be able to fit into a drawer. It would be extremely helpful if the children have in school the things that they need to participate fully in every lesson. This means having a handwriting pen (not ball point/ biro) and essential stationery (pencils, coloured pencils, felt pens etc.) for class work.

We will continue our weekly visit to **St Mary's Church** every Thursday morning. Parents are welcome to attend and any help with the walk up to church will be greatly appreciated.

Exciting News!

-We are visiting The National Gallery on Wednesday 18th March. Letter to follow.

Home learning for this term is as follows:

- Home learning will continue to be handed out every Friday and handed in on the following Tuesday.
- Spelling folders will continue to be handed out on a Tuesday and given in on the following Tuesday.
- Encouraging your children to practise their times tables on a regular basis will help many areas of their mathematical learning as well as their fluency and confidence in this area. Children should continue this learning at home and utilise Times Tables Rockstars and Top Marks games as often as possible.
- Continue to practise key skills in maths is essential. Children should also log on to **RM Easi maths** regularly. Log ins will be placed at the front of children's home learning folders.
- At home, children should continue to read on a daily basis. It is extremely valuable for children to share and discuss with parents/carers thoughts and ideas. It is also extremely valuable for children to be exposed to a range of texts. Please continue to complete the reading log (once a week) which can be found at the front of your child's home learning folder.

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 teacher: Miss Antoniou

Date: February 2020