

## Curriculum Newsletter – spring term 2 2018

Welcome back to Year 4! We hope you have had a great break and are looking forward to Spring 2. Year 4 are excited this term to sail down the rivers of history with our new topic '**A river through time**'. We will be exploring rivers and settlements and how they have changed over time. We would encourage you to do your own research using information texts. Thank you, as ever, for your support. ☺ If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask the Year 4 Team.



**Achieving Success**

### Literacy

This term we will be sailing down the rivers of history with our new topic '**A river through time**'. Children will be going on a voyage of discovery exploring how settlements and river use have changed over time and how humans have impacted on the environment. Our book focus will be 'Varmints' by Helen Ward. It is a tale of a creature whose natural habitat is destroyed to make way for a city. We will be describing settings, and how they change, using figurative language, descriptive vocabulary and similes and metaphors. We will also be using what we have learned in topic work about rivers and settlements to write a report describing and explaining changes over time. In our writing, we will be focussing on using headings and sub-headings to aid presentation, using paragraphs as a way to group related material and including conjunctions to link these together. We will also be looking to include topic vocabulary in our writing which will be linked to our spelling work.

### Mathematics

This half term we continue our work on fractions. The fractions unit is a big one and the students that know their times tables are doing quite well. Depending on progression, decimals will be the next topic. Arithmetic lessons are really paying off. Students are grouped according to concepts they may need help on. Methods of mental calculation will continue to be a focus. Students will continue to master their times tables. The last Arithmetic paper had 16 out of 32 questions based on knowing times tables, and inverse relationships, so it is very important that we continue to focus on fast recall of these facts.

### Art/Drama

In Art this term, the children will be learning about Claude Monet and watercolours. We will be looking at Monet's background and trying to recreate his famous 'Water Lillies' painting.

### Science

Following on from our introduction to Water last half term, this half term we are going to look into the pH scale. We will conduct experiments to determine whether something is an acid or an alkali.

### History/Geography

Linking to our 'A river through time' topic, we will be exploring what rivers are, how they are used, and how this has changed over time. We will also be looking at changes and continuity in settlements, particularly around the banks of the river Thames.

### PSHE

This half term, we will be focusing on our mindful session techniques, and how to get the best start to our afternoons by using this tool.

### Physical Education –

In P.E this half term we will be focusing on becoming competent in the FUNdamentals of movement (Jog, Sprint, Jump, Hop, Weight on Hands, Balance & Coordination).

### Class Book

Due to the previous shorter half term, both classes will continue with the same class books. Ghana class are reading The Firework Maker's Daughter, and will move onto Voices in the Park. Brazil class will continue reading Charlotte's Web. Questioning and discussions during class book time are continuing to focus on inference. What did the author mean when he/she says ...?

**Other Useful Information** Every **Wednesday** pupils will have creative lessons. P.E will occur on **Thursday** for both classes); children will need to be in their P.E kits for **these days**. Please continue to read with an adult for around 20 minutes every evening. This is important as the children are superb readers and now need the opportunity to show this off by reading aloud for intonation purposes and to explore how to engage someone when reading. It would also be a fantastic opportunity for meaningful discussion around the book also. Times tables revision whenever possible.

**Aspiration & Achievement – Scholarship – Perseverance – Integrity – Respect & Responsibility – Enthusiasm**

## **Further guidance with supporting Maths learning**

### **All times tables.**

Hit the Button is no longer free for devices, but it is still free on PC. It is a great resource, and I have it for my children. It has the added benefit of timing the responses, so it becomes a game who can do the best at their times tables in the shortest time.

### **Maths Websites**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zbr9wmn>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Key-Stage-2.htm>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=20>