

Year Four Newsletter

Term Three

Happy New Year!

On behalf of Mrs Garner, Mr Norman and myself, I would like to say thank you for the cards and gifts we received from you for Christmas. We hope you and your families had a fantastic festive season and that the children are rested and ready for the new term.

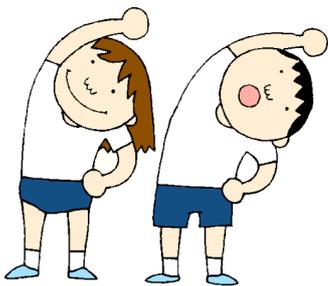
Our Big Question for this term is -

What natural resources do humans use?

This will be an interesting topic and should enable the children to compare the modern day uses of resources with those of the Ancient Egyptians we learned about before Christmas.

Last term, we were rewarding pupils with team points when they had used ttRockstars to practise their multiplication facts. However, we have become aware that many children are not regularly practising their times tables even though they are set as an ongoing homework task. During the summer term, **all** children will be completing an online multiplication assessment where they will be expected to answer 25 questions on facts up to 12 x 12. As they will be given just 6 seconds to answer each question, it is vital that they can recall facts quickly. We are practising as often as possible in school but would appreciate it if you could support your child with this at home too. If you are not able to access ttRockstars for any reason, we also reward children who have completed practise on paper or in their homework books.

Mrs Ruck



PE

This term, we are having a swap around and Mrs Garner will be teaching PE on a Friday afternoon. Lessons with our Elite Sport's coach will continue on a Thursday. All PE lessons will be outdoors so children need to come to school in appropriate clothing on these days.

Reading for Pleasure

These are some of the texts we will be sharing this term:

Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll

Journey by Aaron Becker

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf

We will also be using extracts from a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in guided reading lessons. These will focus on the themes of New Year, Modern vs Classic stories and Mental Health/Emotions.



Our Curriculum

In English this term, we will be exploring the writing of diary entries. We will then revisit story writing with a specific focus on developing setting descriptions. A great chance for the children to show off their growing vocabularies.

In Maths, we are continuing our work on multiplication and division of whole numbers. We are exploring patterns and making links between what we know and what we want to know. Following this unit of work we will be applying our knowledge to finding area of rectilinear shapes before moving onto fractions.

Our connections work has a geography focus and children will be identifying and classifying natural resources. They will also consider the pros and cons of renewable and non-renewable resources.

Our science topic is Sound. The children will learn how sound is created by vibrations and they will investigate what makes hearing more and less difficult.

This term our RE sessions will focus on Hinduism and the importance of community and the key concept of duty. The children will learn about how Hindus worship and about the festivals that they celebrate during the year.

The children will be learning about Georgia O'Keeffe and Vincent Van Gogh in our Art sessions. The children will be expected to produce their own landscape paintings using the different techniques they will have learned about.



Check out the school website for useful information and photographs of what we are getting up to in class. Also, if you want to follow the class on twitter search @WhaplodeY4.

Homework

Maths and English tasks are set on alternate weeks on Fridays and are due in the following Wednesday. If your child needs any support with these tasks, remind them to speak to me or Mr Norman before the Wednesday.

Children should regularly practise the number facts necessary to achieve their termly KIRF target. These can be found in their homework books and all currently relate to times tables. Spellings are given out on a Tuesday for testing on the Monday of the following week. It really helps when you discuss the patterns and any tricky bits within the words and if the children know what each of the words means and can use it in context.

Reading should be completed at home at least 4 times a week. This does not always have to be the reading book sent home from school. Homework diaries need to be signed each time your child reads as these will be checked every Friday and rewards given.

In addition to these tasks, the children have logins for Mathletics, ttRockstars, Reading Eggs and Letterjoin. These can be used to consolidate age-related skills and knowledge.

If you have any questions, please post on Teams and I will endeavour to respond as soon as possible. You will find homework tasks in the files on there too.