

## Year 4 Newsletter – Spring Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to wish you a warm welcome back. We hope you had a restful half term.

### Key information:

- We will continue to test spellings and timetables on Wednesdays and will continue to hand out the results to parents before the end of the week.
- PE lessons will now be on Tuesday. Next week, P.E. will be on a Tuesday afternoon this means that children will come to school in their school uniform and get changed into their P.E kit. This however is subject to change, thus please look out for further announcements and changes in the near future.
- Swimming at **Tiller Leisure Centre** will happen every Thursday from now until the end of the year. Please make sure that your child has the correct swimming kit. This includes: a towel, swimming trunks (males), swimming costume (females), swimming hat and goggles.
- Accelerated reader books should be taken home. Children can now quiz at home through logging into their RM-Unify account.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the second half of the spring term. Please do have a look on the website at our chronology for any further details.

Our big question this term is '**Why do ideas change over time?**' We will be making links to this throughout all of our teaching when appropriate. It may be helpful to think about this question at home with your children when discussing current affairs or during everyday conversations.

In **English** this half term we will be reading **Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo**. We will use this book as stimulus for various pieces of writing. We will begin by thinking about how the thoughts and feelings of the characters develop and change within the first chapter. Furthermore, we will be writing a journal entry from a characters point of view. As well as this, the children will write a poem surrounding the idea of being lost at sea. Our big write focus will be on descriptive setting writing. Children this term will focus on spellings. We will be re-teaching various spelling rules to allow the children to consolidate their knowledge.

Due to the fact that we are exploring a longer text In English, we will also be reading **Kensuke's Kingdom** in **Destination Reader** to ensure that we get as much coverage of the text as possible. We will continue discussing texts using our sentence stems for prediction, inference, questioning, making connections, clarifying and evaluation. In addition, we would like to focus on techniques for identifying different question types.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on fractions and decimals. We will continue focusing on reasoning and problem solving questions. It is important that the children continue to practice their multiplication and division number facts as this will help the children to work efficiently during the lesson.

Our **Geography** topic is based on Natural Resources (i.e. rivers and water). In this unit, we will spend time identifying rivers of the world. The children should be able to make connections to their prior learning about the River Nile and its uses. As we are lucky to be situated near the River Thames, during this topic we will take advantage of this by visiting our local area. Furthermore, we will understand and explain the water cycle and its importance to us, the effects of rivers on the environment and landscape and the causes of river pollution and the effect it has on the environment

In **Science**, our topic will be 'Electricity'. During this topic, we will construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will develop our knowledge of circuits by recognising whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. We will think about common conductors of electricity. Some key words that will be used during this topic include: electricity, switch, conductors, insulators, component, incomplete, cell, motor, buzzer, bulb, wire and battery.

We have two big questions in **Religious Education** this term as we are covering two topics. We will begin by focusing on the big question: '*Do Fame and Christian Faith Go Together?*' In the weeks leading up to Easter, we will then move onto our next big question: '*How does Holy Communion build a Christian community?*'

In **Computing**, we will be creating Logo instructions to draw patterns of increasing complexity. The children will learn about the *pu* and *pd* commands. By the end of the unit the children will be able to follow a Logo code to predict the outcome, create shapes using the *repeat* function and find the most efficient way to draw shapes.

All spellings and timetables should be practiced in time for the spellings and timetables test which is every **Wednesday**. Please familiarise yourself with this terms **project homework**. If your child receives optional Homework this will be given out on Wednesdays and needs to be returned the following Monday so that it can be marked in time for Wednesday.

Best wishes,

Miss Lukwesa, Mr Greenslade, Lou, Natalie and Rita