

Year 4 newsletter Summer 2

WELCOME BACK! What a glorious week of sunshine we've had! I hope you've all had a lovely break and are ready for this final half term. WOW! 6 weeks to go! I'm not quite sure how we're here so quickly but I'm looking forward to getting started on our new topic.

Our learning project title for this half term is Explorers; Ocean Roar! It's a topic all about the ocean which I know the children are looking forward to. Below is what the children will learn over the half term.

ENGLISH - Persuasive letters. The children will learn the features of persuasive texts and will write a persuasive letter linked to our under the sea theme. They will also write personification poetry this half term.

MATHS - We will complete our unit of learning on time and will then move on the geometry. I also intend to review some of the statistics work we did in lockdown.

SCIENCE - States of matter. Solid, liquid and gas. The children will learn about how the particles behave in these different states of matter and how some things can change state by heating or cooling. We will also explore which changes are reversible or irreversible.

HISTORY - Explorers of the sea. We will learn about Christopher Columbus. We will also study the story of HMS Challenger.

GEOGRAPHY - We will learn about the oceans of the world as well as other bodies of water. Children will learn about the layers of the ocean and what creatures and plants live there. They will study changes which are occurring and how these are impacting on the ocean habitats. Our study will centre around plastic in the ocean.

ART and DT - Painting sea creatures, observational pencil sketches using hatching and cross-hatching, work inspired by Antony Gormley, 3D underwater scene using a shoe box (**please remember to collect and keep a shoe box until we're ready for them, thank you**), cooking/baking.

RE - How and why do believers show their commitment through the journey of life?

MUSIC - Sea shanties. Children will perform these in a group. They will also learn the symbols and duration of some standard musical notation as well as the position of the musical notes on the stave. Working with percussion instruments, they will devise their own non-standard symbols to indicate when to play and rest.

COMPUTING - We will use scratch to programme. Children will select and combine software to accomplish given goals.

PSHE - Being my best. Using the Scarf resources (from the life caravan) we will journey through this unit together, understanding how brilliant each one of us is. Time towards the end of the half term will be used on transition work to prepare the children for moving to Year 5.

PE - Cricket.

PE day is Monday. Your child should come to school in their PE kit.

OUTDOOR LEARNING is on Friday. Please ensure your child has a change of footwear. Hopefully the weather is now improving so over trousers and waterproofs may no longer be necessary.

HOMEWORK. Homework should be submitted weekly on Dojo. I don't mind which day your child submits their homework as long as they produce one piece per week. If they want to tackle some homework in more of a project based way, doing a bit each week, that's fine; post what they've done each week.

Your child should be reading, working on their times tables and learning their spellings daily. Please encourage your child to have a conscientious attitude to their homework and to choose something relating to their school work that they'd like to do each week. As they reach upper key stage 2, homework is part of our work to support them with their transition to secondary school. Time management and forward planning are vital life skills that we aim to teach our children as early as possible and completing homework is one way they can demonstrate this. Please see the following page for homework ideas for this half term.

New spelling lists will be put on Dojo each Friday and will be tested the following Friday. If your child is working on individualised spellings with Miss Dawson, she will privately message you on Dojo with your child's new spelling list each Friday.

If your child's reading book needs changing, they should bring the book to school along with their green reading record.

DOJO Dojo will continue to be my primary route of communication so please ensure you're checking regularly for messages, reminders, updates and news so you don't miss anything. You can also use the messages function to contact me directly. As always, if your message is urgent or has a direct impact on your child's day i.e. someone else is picking them up, please let me know on the door.

Things from home We welcome engagement from home so if your child has a book, photographs or anything which relates to our learning, they may bring this in to show the class. Please ensure your child is not bringing anything else in from home. The end of last half term saw an influx of fiddle toys, teddies, note pads, key rings, rubbers etc finding their way in to school. While such items may appear harmless, they often cause unnecessary fuss and distraction throughout the day and can cause learning time to be lost.

Thank you for your support in this.

Uniform Our school colours are red, grey, black and white. Please ensure your child is wearing these colours (including socks) and is dressed smartly for school. Hair should be neatly tied back so it's not falling into children's faces and any earrings should be a **plain** stud. Watches should be appropriate for school; just one that tells the time is sufficient. Flashing screens and beeping alarms again cause distraction to the children.

On PE days, children may come to school in their black PE kit. This should be plain in design or be printed with the school logo. Other logos or emblems are not permitted.

If you're unsure about what your child is wearing, please check with me. Thank you again for your support with this.

HOMEWORK IDEAS

- Why is the ocean blue? Go on...find out!
- Find out about a specific sea creature. Maybe you'll choose sharks, jellyfish or dolphins. What interesting facts can you discover? How will you choose to present your work? A poster? A PowerPoint? It's up to you.
- Create a true or false quiz with fascinating facts about life under the ocean. We will share it as a class.
- Learn about the Great Barrier Reef. Write a tourist leaflet for people who may wish to visit.
- Create a top trumps style game with facts about different sea creatures.
- Create a picture dictionary of plants and creatures of the ocean.
- Visit your local library and use non-fiction books to find out more about life below the waves.
- Use the internet with an adult to discover all about an underwater explorer.
- Create a piece of art work showing the view from the window of a submersible.
- Design an under the sea board game. What will it be called? What creatures might your counters represent? How do you play the game? Will you base it on an existing game (e.g. snakes and ladders) or will you create a brand new idea?
- Write an adventure story about a diver's exploration of a coral reef.
- Learn the song Yellow Submarine by the Beatles. Can you write a new verse? If you play an instrument, can you learn to play it?
- Write a poem about creatures living in the abyss. What style of poetry will you choose? Acrostic? Shape? Haiku? Cinquain?
- Research how to scuba dive and write a set of instructions for a new diver.

These are ideas for you to complete. If you have a different idea that links to some of our learning, that's fine. As long as I receive one piece of work per week, it can be whatever is of particular interest to you but must relate to your school learning. You must be completing one piece of homework from this list or an idea of your own every week and putting it on Dojo.

I can't wait to see your work!

