

# Spring Term 2

## YEAR 4, NEWSLETTER

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back—I hope you have had a lovely break together. We have another busy half term ahead and we are looking forward to embarking on some new topics and activities. Below I have outlined some of the key points of the curriculum and if you would like any further information, as always, please ask.

### English

This half term, the children will be looking at instructional texts. Initially they will be considering 'How to Make a Teacher Happy', followed by pupils and evening inventing their own instructions about a person/ group of their choice. After this, we will start a unit of writing focussing on how to write a character sketch. This will help them to improve their creative writing by adding more depth through their chosen characters. This will be related to our Geography topic, of Biomes, in particular Rainforests and it will be based on the beautiful 'Great Kapok Tree'. Through these units, the children will have various opportunities to expand on their grammar knowledge by learning about the use and value of conjunctions to develop descriptions; generalisers to open sentences; fronted adverbials and the use of the comma; the simple present and past tense; and the use of expanded noun phrases.

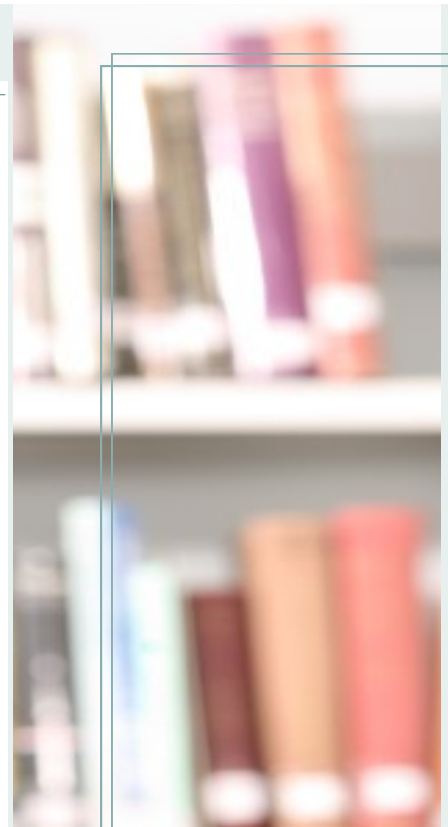
### Maths

Through our mental maths work, times tables remain a focus and the children will continue to do TT Rockstars, including their worksheets several times a week. Tournaments will continue to be set and certificates awarded for brilliant efforts and achievements. Please continue to practise these with the children at home, it really does make a big difference.

This term we will be looking at the 7 times table and then we will be moving on to explore multiplication and division in a variety of different contexts. Following on from this, the children will be learning about co-ordinates in a variety of different ways, including battleships!

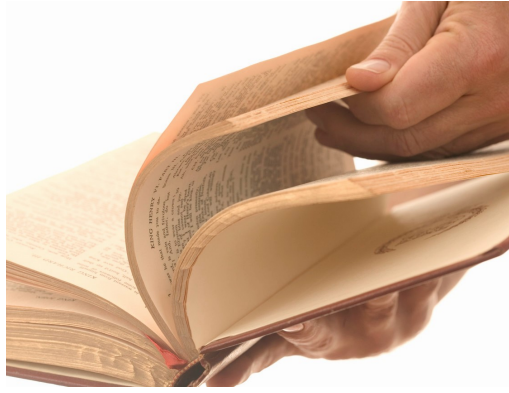
### Geography

Our topic this half term will be a geography based topic - 'Biomes'. This is an interesting topic and allows us to explore the five main biomes: forests, grasslands, tundras, deserts and aquatics. This will link beautifully with Science week and enable us to explore a variety of different avenues. *Please save a jam jar so we can make our own rainforests in a jar!*



### Here are some key dates to put in the diary:

- World Book Day - **Wednesday 6th March 2024** - a day of activities, an opportunity (although no obligation) to dress as the children's favourite book character & an evening of cosy reading in pjs at school. More information to follow shortly.
- Friday 8th March - Ancient Greek Homework Award Ceremony
- Science Week - **W.C: 11.3.2024** - this will be packed with an abundance of experiences surrounding the topic of 'Time'.
- Tuesday 12th March - Cross Country Festival at HSMS - after school, squad to be selected
- Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day
- Monday 18th March - Kolve Meeting, 3.45pm
- Wednesday 20th March - Netball Festival at HSMS, after school, squad to be selected
- Wednesday 27th March - Easter Service at Church, 9.30am, followed by an Easter bonnet parade and Easter Egg hunt.
- Thursday 27th March - Last day of term before the Easter holidays



### **Science**

In Science this term, the children will have a more chemistry based topic of 'States of Matter'. We begin by identifying solids, liquids and gases, and move into understanding the properties of each group. This will lead to understanding how they change with heat and whether the changes are reversible or not. There will be plenty of opportunities for practical work within this topic area. The final part of the topic is to learn about the water cycle, and particularly how the processes of evaporation and condensation are a part of this. The majority of this unit will be taught during our Science week.

### **RE**

Our focus in RE will be Salvation and Easter. We study the huge importance of Easter to Christians. In learning about Holy Week, we will look at meanings and symbolism around Palm Sunday and Good Friday. There is so much symbolism around Easter and not only do the children find it interesting, it lends itself to some creativity.

Our school Christian value this half term is forgiveness. We will as usual bring this into our class service, but it is a good one for children to think about. An ability to forgive and move on where appropriate leads to some interesting discussion.

### **PSHE**

During PSHE lessons this term, we will continue to use the Jigsaw scheme and our topic this term, is 'Healthy Me', in which we will be looking at what makes a healthy friendship and discussing various group dynamics as well as beginning to look at what makes up a healthy diet.

### **PE**

PE still remains on a Wednesday and Thursday. Hopefully this half term we will see more sunshine and warmer days. For the first part of the term, we will be doing Cross Country training in preparation for the Hugh Sexey's festival. Following this, we will be doing some fitness lessons, On Thursday, the children will be doing Netball with Mr Coggins. They will be preparing for the Netball tournament at Hugh Sexey's, and information about this will follow shortly.

### **Art/ DT**

This term, the children will complete some art work inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau. They will create collages of the rainforest, focusing on different shades of green for the leaves and backwash, as well as observational drawings of animals using watercolours.

### **French**

In French the children continue to learn a huge amount of vocabulary and conversational language. At the moment they are learning numbers, months and dates linked to being able to say when their birthday is, and to ask others. In addition, they are practising the song that they have put together as a class for the recording which will be entered in the regional competition.

### **Homework**

A huge well done for the amazing Ancient Greek Homework projects- they really are amazing! Our Homework Award Ceremony will be on Friday 5th March. Homework will still be sent out every Friday via ClassDojo and needs to be returned the following Wednesday in order for us to mark and send back out again. Please send a message on Class Dojo if you need some clarification with the homework. The homework consists of Spellings and Maths. We also encourage that children are returning their home readers as much as possible so they are reading consistently. Please keep up the joy of reading. In addition, please continue to practise timestables and get involved in the TT Rockstar tournaments.

We look forward to another busy and productive term, where we will continue to encourage and observe the children growing in confidence and knowledge.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes,

Mrs Hael, Mrs Keedwell and Mrs Chapman