



Spring 1

Half Term Information for Parents

Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year – I do hope it has been a restful break! I would like to thank all parents and carers for your commitment to our last curriculum theme of 'Aspirations'. It was clear from conversations with the children and submitted homework, that they had been sharing much of their learning at home. This information sheet tells you about what your child will be learning over the course of this half term, and will make clear how this learning links to our new curriculum theme of 'Sustainability'. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Sustainability – 'What can we do to look after our planet?'

English: As a class we will read 'Varmints' by Helen Ward and Marc Craste and will watch the film version of this story. Children will consider the 'big ideas' present in this beautiful, poignant story, such as 'hope, loss, nature, sustainability and urbanization'. Children explore the settings and themes, writing a retelling of the story from the main character's point of view and sharing their thoughts and opinions about the story, empathising with the main character and inferring ideas about his thoughts and emotions. The same text is then used to draw out the process and life-cycle of growing plants (drawing upon their prior scientific knowledge). Children use this as a starting point to create a life-cycle flow diagram, charting the changes that take place as a plant grows and what is needed to nurture it in order to give guidance to the next generation of 'varmint' on how to look after plants. Children then use this, alongside their explored knowledge of explanation texts, to write their own explanation of the life-cycle of plants to be published as a leaflet. Children will be exposed to a range of explanation texts, through Science and Guided Reading throughout. Children will then read the book 'Cinnamon' by Neil Gaiman and they begin by making inferences about the characters and situations in the story. They go on to consider the emotions of characters including Cinnamon herself (in the form of diaries) and also of their parents when creating adverts. There is explicit teaching of the conventions of dialogue through drama and children go on to write a story in the style of Cinnamon using speech.

Spelling: Children will continue to be taught one spelling rule each week. They will take this rule home and will be tasked with finding words which fit the rule, as well as becoming familiar with the spelling of the words explored in class. Examples will be displayed in the classroom and children will complete a weekly spelling activity assessing their understanding of the rule. Children will also practise and learn the spelling of two common exception words each week. Children will be taught the following spelling rules: words with a /shuhn/ sound, spelt with 'sion' (if root word ends in 'se', 'de' or 'd'): words with a /shuhn/ sound, spelt with 'ssion' (if root word ends in 'ss' or 'mit'): words with a shuhn/ sound, spelt with 'tion' (if root word ends in 'te' or 't' / or has no definite root): words with a /shuhn/ sound, spelt with 'cian' (if root word ends in 'c' or 'cs'): words with 'ough' to make a long /o/, /oo/ or /or/ sound.

Maths: Children will learn what perimeter is and how this is measured. They will understand what is meant by a 'rectilinear' shape and will be able to draw and measure the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. They will use their knowledge of 2D shapes to work out the perimeter of shapes, where only parts of the measurements are given. Children will use place value, known and derived facts, to divide and multiply mentally: including multiplying by 1 and 0 and dividing by 1: They will recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication facts up to 12 x 12 and will count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000. Children will learn to solve a range of problems involving multiplying and adding, including using the distributive law to multiply two digit numbers by one digit, integer scaling problems and harder

correspondence problems such as n objects are connected to m objects. They will recognise and use factor pairs and commutativity in mental calculations and will learn to multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written layout. Children will learn how to find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares and will be able to draw their own shape and work out its area.

Geography and Science: Children will journey to the Kumaon region of India and learn about the life of a Kumaon child. They will find out about the fascinating Kumaon region and the tallest peaks of the Himalayas. Through their learning, they will compare this region to their own. Children will explore globes and atlases to locate mountainous areas across the world, locating mountain ranges of the world, as well as labelling a map of England with its towns, cities and counties and where British mountains are located. Children will begin to think about similarities and differences between their lives and life in the Kumaon Himalaya. Children will learn about the key features of mountains and they will be able to label these successfully. They will use maps and atlases to find the Kumaon region of the Himalayas and will use an atlas to identify the countries within which the Himalayan mountain range runs. They will begin to identify some of the tallest peaks of the Himalayas, and in which country they belong. Children will learn about life in the upper reaches of the Himalayas, thinking about isolation and employment and access to water and electricity. Children will experience Kumaoni school lessons and make comparisons with their school and debate the differences. They will think about life for children who live in less economically developed countries and relate this to our own behaviour and attitudes. Children will begin to understand water access issues for people in the Kumaon and around the world. They will understand that only 2.5% of the world's water is fresh water, and this is not distributed equally across the world. They will also learn that 80% of our fresh water originates from mountains and this will directly link to their learning about the water cycle in our Science lessons. Children will consider their daily water usage and compare it to those living in the Kumaon and will role-play fetching water for everyday tasks and begin to understand water issues for people in the Kumaon. Children will learn about the water cycle and will understand this concept and that water is a finite resource and therefore is precious. They will be able to discuss the water cycle and how it works, and will be able to demonstrate their understanding through role play of the journey of a raindrop and through clear and coherent labelling. Children will carry out an experiment 'Water Cycle in a Bag' to apply their knowledge of the water cycle, allowing them to see the process of evaporation, condensation and precipitation. Children will be introduced to hydroelectricity ahead of their 'Electricity' studies in Science next half term.

RE: Following the Northumberland 'SACRE' scheme of work: **Hinduism: Stories** – Children will know that Hindu scripture and the Ramayana are important to Hindus. They will know that the content of Hindu scripture shapes the lives of Hindus. Children will know about how and why some of the stories are important to Hindus and these stories shape Hindu belief and practice (creation story, Rama and Sita, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Children will explore stories about other faces/manifestations of God (Ganesh, Hanuman and Lakshmi).

Music: *Chopin's "Raindrop" Prelude, Op 28, No. 15; Mendelssohn's The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave) - Overture and Grofé's Grand Canyon Suite* show different interpretations of moving water. Children will listen to these alongside their Science, Geography work and will consider how the use of dynamics, texture and pitch have been used to interpret water. They will compose short pieces of music in pairs to match given weather symbols. Children will focus on controlling rhythm and pulse; they will recognise rhythmic patterns in a range of pieces of music and will perform a repeated pattern to a steady pulse, using a given percussion instrument.

E-Safety: **Staying safe online:** Using a range of given scenarios, children will consider the best and most responsible course of action using the NHFS 'zip it, block it, flag it' icons. The focus will be on 'Tic Toc', 'Snapchat' and gaming devices will the ability to communicate.

French: **Speaking and Listening:** Children will understand a range of spoken phrases e.g. 'hello, how are

you?', 'line up at the door', 'sit down', 'close the door', 'where do you live', 'what is your name?'. They will be able to talk about who is in their family, which foods they like and where they live.

How can you help?

- Please ensure children use their planners daily and use these to record when you have heard you child read. This can simply be signature and page numbers read. Children receive house points for having signatures recorded to demonstrate reading at home so your support is much appreciated.
- **PE KITS:** Children will be doing PE on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this half term and therefore require kits on these days. Please ensure children have the correct kit.
- Ensure your children are familiar with the week's spelling rule and that they have practised their spellings ahead of a Friday.
- Encourage your child to login to Times Tables Rockstars daily.

Homework

The homework which we set will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey. Children are given a spelling rule each week to practice and learn at home. They then complete a spelling check activity the following Friday to check their understanding of this rule. Additionally, we provide children with a half termly homework grid with a range of activities linked to our topic.

Visits/Visitors/Reminders

15.01.19 – Operation Encompass Visit (PSHE)

17.01.19 – Year 4 Coffee Morning

07.11.19 – NUSTEM 'Story of the Earth' whole school assembly (date TBC)