



Year 4 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2 Term 2021

Our Theme is Eco Explorers



Can one person change the world?

Throughout the remainder of this half-term, we will be learning about how we can **all** contribute to looking after our planet, and live in an increasingly sustainable way.

Our Science learning journey embeds our understanding of the classification of living organisms, and we will complete a local environmental study through Geography. This will help us understand the importance of protecting our environment, local and global, and all the living things that inhabit it.

SAVE THE BEES! Through our English learning journey, we will study a bee's anatomy and function, and learn how bees are responsible for so many of the products we enjoy and use today! Many species of bee are under threat, so we will be writing a persuasive letter to an adult in power to help protect the bees in our local area. This also links to our DT learning, where we will be learning to strengthen structures when we build our very own Bee Bungalows.

We will look at a local (Portsmouth) author and anti-plastic activist Neal Layton to spark our interest about the ways we use plastic – and how we could be better! We will consider our responsibilities as an Eco Explorer and become 'plastic-fantastic' as we endeavour to make our lives more sustainable, sharing the motto 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.'

These are key learning objectives we will be covering in English and Mathematics

In reading we will be learning to:

- identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
- develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what we read, by discussing books that are structured in different ways for a range of purposes
- participate in discussion, taking turns and listening to what others say

In writing we will be learning to:

- extend the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including *when, if, because, although*
- use conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express cause
- assess the effectiveness of our own and others' writing and suggest improvements

In mathematics we will be learning to:

- recall multiplication and division facts for all of the times tables (up to 12 x 12), as learners are expected to recall the facts within 5 seconds
- solve problems involving multiplying and adding
- solve problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number

Back Together Again

Now that all children are back in school again, to support them with their mental health and wellbeing we will be focussing on the following areas: Safety, Friendships and Caring, Achievement and Resilience.

There will be an increased focus on our CARE code and behaviour expectations – reminding the children of how they can CARE for themselves and others and keep everyone safe. It is really important that they reconnect as a group, so there will be a focus upon friendship and relationships which will also include an introduction of some new 'Magic Minutes' from Trick Box to support with mindfulness. We will continue to develop the children's achievement and resilience through promoting positive learning attitudes and effort.

To support this learning, we will be using resources from SCARF education, Place2Be and Trick Box as well as our Personal Development Learning (PDL) curriculum as usual.

Year 4 Message Board

Our **outdoor PE day remains a Tuesday**; our **indoor PE day remains a Thursday**. Please ensure that your child has the correct P.E. kit to wear in to school, including a warm tracksuit for outside and suitable footwear. Long hair must be tied up and earrings removed or taped for all PE sessions.

Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school every day, which they will take home at the end of each day to refresh. Thank you for your continued support with water bottles, as this has really helped keep this precautionary measure running smoothly. Please could you also ensure that your child brings in an **unprocessed fruit or vegetable snack**, to enjoy at Snack and Story time.

Our classrooms continue to be well-ventilated, so please ensure your child has the appropriate number of layers of clothing so that they can stay comfortable.

As learners return to school, please would they bring back the minimum, such as their coat, book bag, snack pot and water bottle. Other possessions need to be kept at home as a precautionary measure. If we require additional resources for an activity, we will allow enough notice that they can be quarantined in time.

Thank you for your continued support,
Year 4 Team