



# Year 4 Spring 2 Newsletter



## Coming up in Spring 2

### Eco- Explorers



#### Can one person change the world?

This half term, we will consider our responsibilities as Eco Explorers. We will become 'plastic-fantastic' as we endeavour to make our school a sustainable place, sharing the motto 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' with other learners. We will use our school grounds to learn all about habitats and eco-systems.

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.



**Thank you for your continued support, Year 4 Team**

Our **English learning** will help us identify how language, structure, and presentation enhances the meaning of the text being read. When writing, we will use fronted adverbials (followed by a comma), for example '*Interestingly, All of sudden, Next, In the distance,...*'. We will continue to use conjunctions to explain the cause of something, such as '*due to, as, if*'. We will continue to build our rich and varied vocabulary by reading a range of texts and using a thesaurus when writing. When reading, we will ask questions to improve our understanding of a text and draw inferences and justify inferences with evidence.

Our **Mathematics learning** will continue to help our recall of 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. We will continue to solve problems involving multiplying and adding using compact addition and the grid method for multiplication. This half term, we will solve problems involving increasingly complex fractions. As well as counting up and down in hundredths, we will recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by a hundred and dividing tenths by ten. Later, we will learn about equivalent fractions. Finally, we will be adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.

### How you can support your child's learning at home



#### Reading

Please encourage your child to read at home and fill in their weekly reading diaries. It would be great if you can also encourage them to read a wide range of texts to improve their vocabulary and understanding. A visit to the local library may inspire your child to choose a different type of text. You can also ask your child questions about the texts they have read, especially where they need to have inferred ('read between the lines') to understand. Lastly, you could encourage your child to make comments and form opinions on what they are reading, as well as making links between themes.

#### Writing and Spelling

When your child is writing, ask them to read back what they have written. Encourage them to self-edit any punctuation errors and changes with a purple 'polishing' pen or pencil. To help your child to improve the quality of their writing, encourage them to use exciting adjectives! To help with tricky spellings, ask your child to attempt to spell a word first and then to check it with a dictionary. As well as our fortnightly spelling tasks, please continue to regularly practise the Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words to help your child make good progress with their Year 4 spelling targets. You could also support your child at home with their handwriting by encouraging them to form their ascenders and descenders correctly, and at a clear legible size - not too big, not too small, just right!

#### Mathematics

Learning to tell the time is an important life skill so please help your child to develop their time skills by encouraging them to tell the time on digital and analogue clocks.

The **Multiplication Check window** is from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**.

It is important for your child to practise their multiplication facts, up to 12 x 12. You can use a wide variety of strategies to make this fun.

### Year 4 Messages

Polite reminders:

- please return the Home Learning book and library book/s on Thursdays.
- please ensure that water bottles are brought in (and taken home) daily. **Juice is only permitted at lunchtimes in a separate water bottle.**

Thank you ☺

**Dates for your Year 4 diary**  
**Final Straw visited**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February**

## Our Personal and Development Learning (SCARF) unit is: *Rights and Responsibilities*.

The Key learning points are:

- **Who helps us stay healthy and safe?** Explain how different people in the school and local community help them stay healthy and safe and describe the various responsibilities of those who help them stay healthy and safe.
- **It's your right.** Understand that humans have rights and also responsibilities and identify some rights and also responsibilities that come with these.
- **How do we make a difference?** Understand the reason we have rules and recognise that everyone can make a difference within a democratic process.
- **In the news!** Recognise that reports in the media can influence the way they think about a topic and form and present their own opinions based on factual information and express or present these in a respectful and courteous manner.
- **Safety in numbers.** Explain the role of the bystander and how it can influence bullying or other anti-social behaviour and recognise that they can play a role in influencing outcomes of situations by their actions.
- **Logo quiz.** Understand some of the ways that various national and international environmental organisations work to help take care of the environment and understand and explain the value of this work.
- **Harold' expenses.** List some of the items and services of expenditure in the school and in the home and prioritise items of expenditure in the home from most essential to least essential.
- **Why pay taxes?** Explain what is meant by the terms 'income tax', 'National Insurance' and 'VAT' and understand how a payslip is laid out showing both pay and deductions.

*Find out more about the wonderful learning we did in Spring 1 below...*

### Our Learning in Spring 1

In English, we read the historic poem **Beowulf**. We wrote diary entries from the viewpoint of Beowulf himself, describing the inside of the Great Hall of Heorot. We used descriptive language to engage our audience. We also acted out scenes from the Great Hall in character of people from the past.



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, we were visited by **Ragnor the VIKING!** During the morning, we listened to Ragnor telling us about life in the Viking times and the weapons they would have used – we even got to hold spears,



axes, swords, shields, helmets and ring meshed mail. In the afternoon, Ragnor told us about Viking stories and religion. We especially enjoyed listening to sagas about the Viking Gods. To finish the day we acted out an ancient ship burial learning about how archaeologists have found out about the past by discovering ship burial sites.



In History, we learnt about the wonders of Sutton Hoo in Suffolk which is an Anglo-Saxon burial ground, home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time.

