

Let's Be Islanders!

Year 4 – Summer 2

Science: In science, we have our second biology topic, this time focusing on how living things can be grouped in different ways (mammals, reptiles etc) and how classification keys can help to identify and name living things. We will also be looking at how environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Geography: Our theme this half term is Let's Be Islanders. We will be completing an island comparison of Mersea and Bryher in the Scilly Isles. We will be describing the physical and human features of both islands. We will also be working on our map skills using aerial photographs, photographs and maps from the past, atlases and globes, as well as digital mapping. The eight points of the compass and OS symbols will also be revisited, along with four figure grid references (all of which tie in with our maths and orienteering).

Music: To reflect our island based topic, we will be learning to sing some sea shanties as an ensemble. We will use call and response techniques and sing as a round. We will also look at the history of sea shanties and the traditions behind them.

French: We will learn how to ask and answer questions about which indoor sports we enjoy and also recap the days of the week.

ICT: We will explore the concept of repetition in programming using the Scratch environment.

PSHE: This half term we will cover the Year 4 RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum. Information regarding the content of the sessions will be sent to you, in advance. We will also be talking about changes and preparing the children for transition to Year 5.

RE: The enquiry question for this half term will be, 'Why is there so much diversity of belief in Christianity?'

Art: We will build on previous printing skills by learning how to print using gelli plates. Our art work will have a coastal theme to tie in with our work in geography.

PE: This half term we will be continuing to develop skills in athletics as well as taking part in outdoor adventurous activities (orienteering) around the school grounds.

Reading - Our new class text is 'The Sleeping Sword' by Michael Morpurgo. We will be exploring the various themes of the book, including the legend of King Arthur, which links nicely to our last history topic. This book has quite a complex structure with story inside a story, and we will be guiding the children through this to be sure they understand what is happening. The book is set on the Scilly Isles and describes many features of the islands, especially the island of Bryher. We will use this as an opportunity to compare island life on Bryher with island life on Mersea.

Writing – The children will take some of the events from 'The Sleeping Sword' to adapt in order to write their own short story set on Mersea. We will practise describing settings that create different atmospheres using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases and also using the correct punctuation when writing direct speech.

Maths

We will continue to use the Maths Mastery scheme of work. In Summer 2, the areas of maths to be covered are 'shape and symmetry', 'reasoning with patterns and sequences' and '3D shapes.' We will also look at varying strategies for problem solving which will also be covered in some of the homework activities. The children should also continue to practise their times tables to ensure they do not forget them.

Homework

Alternating English and maths homework will be set on a Tuesday to be handed in the following Monday.

Reading

The expectation is that children will read at home **4 times** a week. Any additional reading will earn a Ship Token. Reading is to be recorded in the reading diary.

We will be continuing our fluency reading approach this half term.

Times Tables

Please check the back of your child's reading record to see which times table they are currently working on.

If they have already completed all of the stages – please continue to practise to ensure they maintain their speed.

Children have access to 'Times Tables Rock Stars' through their school login details.

Spelling

The children will practise the Year 4 spelling rules and common exception words during a spelling session every day.

Important Dates

June 1st – 12th MTC check

The children will take their test during this period. We will put the results in the end of term reports.

Wednesday 3rd June – Year 4 Coast

Day

We will spend the day on Coast Road, making maps, visiting the lifeboat station and going over to Packing Marsh Island.

Things to remember

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!

These should be in school **every** day:

- **Named** water bottle.
- Healthy snack or pre-paid money on parent pay
- Reading book and record.
- Homework book.
- PE kit for **indoor and outdoor** lessons.
- Coat and sun hat.

PE

Children should have their PE kit in school Monday to Friday every week, taking it home on a Friday for washing.

Reminder – long hair must be up and **all** jewellery removed.

How can you help?

- Have a walk round Cudmore Grove if possible – we will be setting our story there so this will help the children visualise it more clearly.
- Talk about distances while you are driving. For example, how many kilometres it is from your house to Colchester; how long The Strood is etc.
- Discuss the facilities on Mersea – what do you have to leave the island for and what can you do without leaving the island?
- Encourage your child to practise their French vocabulary on Linguascope – they can access the games and activities at home with the school's login which is written in the front of their reading diary.

Please remember to email your class teacher if you have any concerns or queries and we will get back to you as soon as we can.