

IMPOSSIBLE PLACES

Year 4 Term 1 2019/20

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to a new year and the start of our Year 4 journey! We hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. During term 1, our topic focus will be Impossible Places and will encompass a journey all over the earth and beyond whilst enjoying the fabulous novel 'The Train to Impossible Places' by PG Bell. We will be covering a wide range of topics and our work will include exploring:

- Different world climate zones and vegetation belts, particularly tropical areas.
- The use of physical and political maps to look at continents, time zones and biomes.
- The use of geographical vocabulary – longitude, latitude, Equator, tropics and hemispheres.
- How animals are adapted to their habitats and their position within food chains.
- The classification of animals /plants and features of living organisms.
- Our responsibility to look after the earth and its nature.

In English, we will be looking at different styles of writing such as letters, non-chronological reports and different forms of poetry such as haiku and tanka. Grammar elements such as sentence types, paragraphing, conjunction types and those dreaded fronted adverbials will also be introduced and examined. In maths, we shall be doing some consolidation work on shape and place value before delving into both mental and written calculation method for addition and subtraction, time and also introducing decimals.

PE: PE will take place on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please check your child has shorts and a T – shirt for warmer weather, some joggers and jumpers as the weather grows cooler and that their trainers still fit them. Please do also help them to ensure they always have the appropriate kit in school. Please also ensure that your child arrives in school in their PE kits on a Thursday morning.

Spelling tests: As last year, children should continue to bring their spelling booklets to school each week on Wednesdays. Key words from our scheme will soon also be practised on the Spelling Shed online games using the log-ins that your child will be given. Spelling practise is a vital part of our home learning expectation so we are grateful for your support with this. We will also have regular independent reading sessions so the children need to bring in their reading books daily. In addition, reading at home- both aloud and to themselves- is an excellent way of increasing vocabulary and comprehension. Please encourage your child to have a book that interests/inspires them. If your child is struggling to find a book they enjoy, we are more than happy to give recommendations and advice!

Times Tables: Age-related expectations for children at the end of Year 4 are that they will know all times tables and associated division facts up to 12 x 12. We will work on the different times tables during class time but the support you offer at home is incredibly beneficial. All TTRockstars logins remain the same from last year.

If you have any questions or concerns then please do get in touch. We hope everyone has a lovely term! Please do let us know if you can help with readers as any help is of huge benefit to the children.

Mr Hardwick and Mr Westwood

Snacks: Children may bring in a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or veg for playtime. Snacks and water bottles need to be kept separate from lunch boxes.

Dates for the diary

Year 4 Curriculum Evening – 18th September.

Parent/teacher consultations - 8th & 10th October.

Individual photos – 11th October

INSET – 22/23/24 October