

IMPOSSIBLE PLACES

Part 2

Year 4 Term 2 2019/20

Dear Parents and carers,

We hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Welcome back to a new term that will see us complete our journey on the Train to Impossible Places, ending with our Nativity in the church. Our topic focus continues to be Impossible Places and will see us journeying to more places around the globe as well as welcoming author PG Bell to our school. We will be continuing to cover a wide range of topics and our work will include exploring:

- Different world climate zones and vegetation belts, particularly tropical areas.
- 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.

English this term will be very narrative driven as we look at and practise effective ways of creating characters and settings, as well as exploring plot by writing our own Impossible Places narrative. We will also examine how to write persuasively in order to help us complete an independent conservation project based on the places we visit. This will also be incorporated into a special art project as we explore colour and the skills needed for portraiture.

In maths, we will spend some time looking at time and statistics before delving into the relationship between multiplication and division and honing our mental and written methods for both. We will also be recapping and assessing elements of our learning from last term as we progress through this term.

PE: PE will now 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 previously, children should continue to bring their spelling booklets to school each week on Wednesdays. Key words from our scheme and weekly assignments based on in-class learning will continue to be available on Spelling Shed. Practising spellings 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 continue to work on the different times tables during class time but the support you offer at home is incredibly beneficial. Please be aware that Times-tables practice, like spelling, is part of the home learning expectation for our year group and across the school.

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

PG Bell Author visit – 6th November

Open Afternoon – 26th November

Nativity in church to families – 18th December

End of term – 20th December