

IMPOSSIBLE PLACES

Year 4 Term 1 2020/21

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, particularly after the unprecedented lack of time in school since March for most children. We appreciate that everyone's journey to this point has been different but we are so glad to be welcoming you into our classes and Year 4. We are in for some super learning but also plenty of getting to know each other and getting used to being at school again.

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.
- The changing states of matter, where we can find these and how it links to 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 there will be plenty of revisiting of Year 3 skills and concepts to aid your child's progress. In maths, we shall be doing some consolidation work on place value before delving into both mental and written calculation methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There will also be weekly times-tables foci in school to complement what is done at home using TTRockstars.

PE: PE will take place on Thursdays this term and the children will be required to come in wearing their PE kits on this day each week. 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.

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 12×12 , and the government has confirmed that Multiplication Tables Check is currently scheduled to be done this academic year. 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.

How you can help your child at home:

It is incredibly beneficial that you support your child's learning at home. Reading, spellings and times tables are the foundation of Year 4's homework and time spent on these together is time very well spent. Now and then, however, there may be a pre-learning homework for a future lesson – usually reading through some information or doing some research. Children will have at least a week to complete this flipped classroom homework and Class Dojo will be utilised to assist with it. The day it is given out will depend on when it's needed. It won't necessarily be every week.

This term's learning has been planned to make the transition from Year 3 and Lockdown as smooth as possible. We are here to support you and your children, and we are always happy to talk through any concerns or ideas you may have. We can be contacted via email (via the office) and are always happy to discuss any queries or concerns with you.

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

12th October – Individual photos