

Storms and Shipwrecks

Year 4 – Term 1 – 2021

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 events of the past 18 months. 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 settling into the new year.

During term 1, our topic will be Storms and Shipwrecks and will encompass a journey through the seas whilst enjoying the fabulous novel 'The Titanic Detective Agency' by Lindsay Littleson. We will be exploring the topic in subjects such as science and geography and our work will include exploring:

- 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.
- Locating and understanding the countries of Europe, including their capital and major cities.

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. This will be taught alongside grammar elements such as sentence types, paragraphing, and conjunction types, with plenty of revisiting of Year 3 skills and concepts to aid your child's progress. Reading lessons will see us exploring non-fiction texts on Titanic in order to develop our skills of skimming, scanning and summarising, before looking at making predictions in fiction using our class novel.

In maths, we shall do some consolidation work on both mental and written calculation methods for addition and subtraction, before shifting our focus to place value and exploration of the number system. We will also be having a regular focus on the learning and understanding of the multiplication tables through the use of frequent Number Time sessions.

Our work in art this term will also have an ocean theme as we explore the creation of seascapes using sketching, painting and collage skills. Please do ensure that your child has an old shirt or apron kept in school for use in art lessons in order to protect their uniforms.

RE will see us delving into Buddhism and addressing the question of whether it is possible for everyone to be happy, looking at Buddhist beliefs on the subject. Our work in computing will take in the ideas of how we can stay safe when online and how we can use the Internet effectively to search for information, giving us useful tools to then find out more about our topic both in school and at home.

PSHEE sessions for this term will be aiming to aid the children with their transition into Year 4, whilst looking at how we can create an effective class, year group and school community.

It is our hope and belief that the children will find it an exciting, engaging and stimulating topic and we look forward to taking these first steps on their Year 4 learning journey with them.

Key Dates:

Friday 8th October – individual photos

Friday 15th October – 4DH Class Celebration Assembly

We're here to support you and your children, and are always happy to talk through any concerns or ideas you may have. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Hardwick, Mr Westwood and Miss Smith

Storms and Shipwrecks

Routines and Key Information

PE: PE will currently take place on Thursdays and Fridays 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 and Spellings: Age-related expectations for children at the end of Year 4 are that they will know all multiplication tables facts up to 12×12 , and the Multiplication Tables Check is again 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.

New spellings will be given out on Tuesdays and will include 3 Common Exception Words from the Years 3 and 4 list, and 10 words from a weekly focus spelling rule. These will also be set on Spelling Shed before then being tested in school the following Monday.

All TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed logins remain the same from last year.

Home Learning: 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. We would hope for daily reading (reading to someone aloud at least once a week is still really powerful in this age group), and at least 30 minutes a week each on TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed. 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 ample time to complete this and Google Classroom will be used to assist with it.

PPA: The Year 4 PPA day for this year is Wednesday, and the children will be taught French, PE, art and music by our excellent specialist teachers. For these sessions, the three classes will be combined into two groups and this will also happen on a Friday afternoon for computing and the second PE session of the week to ensure that these subjects are able to be given plentiful teaching time for all children.

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

Show and Tell: Despite loving Show and Tell in Year 4, there is no set time for it as our week can become very full very quickly. As such, it will be done on something of an ad-hoc basis and so we ask that it is kept topic-related if possible, unless of course it is celebrating an achievement or experience that the children are particularly pleased with. We would obviously love to hear about such lovely things!

Volunteering: We hope to be able to welcome volunteers back into school soon, though anyone who wishes to would need to obtain a DBS check and undergo new safeguarding training. Details of these can be got from the office. We would obviously love to have the opportunity to utilise any special skills or knowledge you may have around one of our subjects or topics, or if you wish to accompany us on a trip or hear readers then this would also be very gratefully received!

Contacting Us: We can be reached via email through admin@christchurch.wilts.sch.uk. Any email sent to this address will then be forwarded to us and we will respond either in person, via telephone or through return email within two working days. If it is urgent, please feel free to either make an appointment to see us through the office or simply catch us after school where other meetings and appointments permit.