

# Storms and Shipwrecks

Year 4 – Term 2 – 2021

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 voyage through the ocean. Our topic focus continues to be Storms and Shipwrecks and will see us 'deep diving' into the oceans of the world. We will be continuing to cover a wide range of topics and our work will include exploring:

- 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 Titanic based mystery. We will also examine how to write persuasively in order to help us complete an independent conservation project based on the places we visit.

In maths, we will spend some time looking at place value, as well as rounding. We will also revisit column addition and column subtraction to build on the skills learnt in Year 3. In addition, we will be closely looking at the 4 and 8 times tables, and how we can learn these and the associated rules effectively to then apply the learning. We will also be recapping and assessing elements of our learning from last term as we progress through this term.

**PE:** PE will continue to take place on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. On these days, please come in PE kit. 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.

**Spelling tests:** As previously, new Challenge Words and the spellings that adhere to the spelling rule focus of the week will be sent home on the Tuesday. These will be set on Spelling Shed so please do make sure that there is plenty of practice happening, though using the words in sentences (both written and verbal) is also hugely beneficial for learning the meaning and use of the words. We will then be testing the children on the following Monday.

**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. As such, in both spelling and times-tables, we will be setting weekly expectations for the number of games in each to be completed. Please do let us know of any issues with completing these or if practice is being completed in alternative ways.

If you have any questions or concerns then please do get in touch. We hope everyone has a lovely term and can continue in the marvellous manner of last term!

**Mr Hardwick, Mr Westwood and Miss Smith**

**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

13/12/21 – Flu immunisations

15/12/21 – Christmas Lunch

17/12/21 – End of Term