

YEAR 4 NEWSLETTER

Driving Question: Why should humans work harder to protect habitats and the environment?

Non-fiction: Explanation text

We had a great time last term learning about chocolate. We also had a great time on our trip to Cadbury's World where everyone showed all of the aspirational values.

Literacy

We are beginning this term by focusing on a non-fiction explanation text about jellyfish. We will be improving our writing by changing grammar and vocabulary to ensure consistency. We will also be using our knowledge of clauses to compose sentences to vary structure. Later in the term, we will be looking at our Talk for Reading text 'Journey to the River Sea'. As a class we will be reading a range of non-fiction books. This will help us understand how to find information from books and stories.

At home you could:

- Carry out your own research about jellyfish to support your understanding of the text:
- http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/phrase_or_clause/quiz2825.html

Maths

This term we will be focusing again on our times tables in preparation for the Year 4 test in June. The children need to know these times tables by heart so practise at home will be very beneficial. Time Table Rock Stars is great for practising their times tables. We will also be focusing on decimals, money and time.

At home you could:

- Use Times Table Rock Stars
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=decimal>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/money>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=time>



Physical Education

Athletics and handball will be our main sports this term. We will be practising essential ball skills and learning basic tactics to engage in games of handball. This will be taught **outside** so please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing. PE Kit is **white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers**. Please ensure

that your child has a **black sweatshirt**. For your child's safety, earrings must be removed before any PE lesson.

Science and Geography

This term we will be looking at sorting animals based on their habitats. We will also look at food chains and how animals live together. As we progress through the term, we will integrate some PHSE into our lessons. We aim to investigate how much plastic is used, its impact on the environment and how we can make a difference. You could watch the news or read recent articles to find out more about the damage that is happening to our planet.

REMINDERS AND DATES

Tuesday 18th April – Term 5 begins

Tuesday 18th April – Y4 Celebration Assembly

Thursday 27th and Friday 28th May – Travelling Book Fair (outside hall)

Monday 1st – Bank holiday

Monday 8th – Bank holiday

Thursday 16th May – Dashwood's Got Talent auditions

Thursday 25th May – Year 4/5 Singing Extravaganza

Friday 26th May – Last day of term 5

How a jellyfish stings

Jellyfish are invertebrates- this means that they do not have backbones. They have circular bodies without a head and paralysing tentacles that hang down into water.

They live in water and swim or drift with the currents in the sea. They are found throughout the world (though they prefer warmer water in tropic climates).

They attack their food with tentacles that are covered with tiny stinging threads known as nematocysts. If any creature touches one of the threads, the nematocysts explode outwards. The threads, with sharp tips, stab their prey. Most nematocysts inject a poison into their victim; this stuns or kills their prey preventing it from escaping. Once bound, it is then hauled upwards through the central opening, which both intakes food and discards waste.

Further facts

The man-o'-war is one of the most feared jellyfish in the world due to its excruciatingly painful sting. Its tentacles can grow up to 20 metres in length. Its body is an unusual bluish shape.