



Year 4 Newsletter

Spring Term

# Welcome Back!

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely break and are ready to get back to some super topic work and exciting activities. This term our topic will be South America. We will be focusing on Carnival and all that goes with it because our Post Learning Project will be designing, organising and recreating our own South American carnival. Another focus will be the Amazon River, as our novel is set in a town beside the river. Please, if you have any items or specialist knowledge about these topics or South America itself, do not hesitate to get in touch.

## OAA Coaching

Additionally, this term we have a specialist coach working with us on Monday afternoons. He is an expert in Outdoor and Adventurous Activity (OAA). He will be mainly teaching orienteering and the skills that make up this difficult activity. Not only does it teach National Curriculum PE skills, it also lends itself to map work, direction skills and using compasses which is just an added extra. I am very excited about this opportunity for Year 4 because the lessons and coach come highly recommended. It will also give any of those children going to Dukes House a little head start! The nature of this lesson means we will be mainly outside. Please ensure children have warm, old clothes and suitable footwear such as wellies. We will also continue our usual PE lesson on a Tuesday.

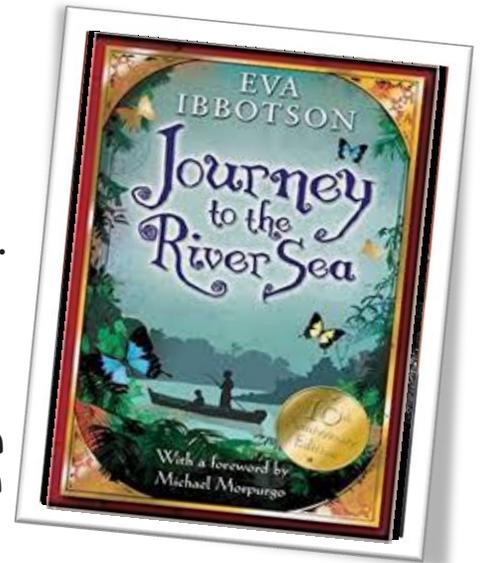


## Science

Our Science topic is Living Things and their Habitats. Our Post Learning Project for Science is going to be designing and creating a habitat for local wildlife. If children would like to bring anything in for this project, we are happy to store useful items until they are needed. Some items may even be used in the lessons building up to the making of the habitat.

## A Journey to the River Sea

Our novel this term is *A Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson. It is a wonderful read and I thoroughly enjoyed the twists and turns of the plot as I read it. We have Maia, our main character, who we first meet at boarding school. After a terrible accident, her parents are no longer with her, and her guardian is her father's lawyer. He finds some of Maia's family living in South America in a little bungalow right by the Amazon. At first, she is so excited about the journey and the life she is going to lead but soon things turn and she has to fight for what she wants and on behalf of others. Will she get her adventurous life in a foreign land or will it be back to boarding school?



On Fridays, Spanish will continue every other week. In the weeks in which there is no Spanish, we will focus on Art and Design or Design and Technology. The aim of these lessons are to learn skills or build up a design for a final project. For example, in the first half of the term, we will be focusing on Art and Design and recreating our own piece of South American art. Throughout the term, we will research artists, practice the art skills required and plan our piece. The final week in the term, we will put all our work together and create a masterpiece! During the second half of the term, the focus will be on a Design and Technology project but the same process still applies.

## Homework

Spelling home was super last term! All children received minutes on the bouncy castle and the majority of children received very close to, if not the maximum amount of minutes available! Well done Year 4, keep it up!

As a school, we have now started a Reading Class Champion, Year 4 are yet to receive the trophy. The aim is to change this during this term! In addition to this, we will be taking another trip to Waterstones around the end of the term. Just as a reminder, reading four times per week earns children £1 to spend on books in the shop. They could receive a total of £11 if our trip is in the last week of term.

Time Tables homework is also fantastic! Many tokens were spent! There were ice creams and mini prizes galore! The focus should be the 6x, 7x and 9x, however if other timetables need work or if children are confident with these, please do not hesitate to try others. Children will still get their rewards and will be getting the specific times table that they need.