

# KEW RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2014

Dear Crocodile Parents and Carers,

### Welcome to Crocodile Class!

Welcome back to the start of a new and what promises to be exciting academic year. I trust that you have all had an enjoyable summer break. I am thrilled to be working with the children this year - we will learn and develop new skills and have lots of fun along the way.



To begin the year our topic is **Local History and the Tudors**.

We will be kicking off this exciting topic with a trip to Hampton Court Palace on September 17<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow in the weekly bulletin. If anyone has any Tudor artefacts or books they would be happy to share with the class, please let me know.

The children can check out the websites below to begin their research:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/tudors.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/8301243/A-history-of-Kew-Gardens.html>

**English:** To develop our story skills further, we will be studying the children's classic 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B White. We have fifteen copies in class but if children would like to bring their own copy from home, they are welcome to do so. We will be using the text and the DVD to analyse the characters of Fern, Wilbur and Charlotte, and to use this information to help us write character descriptions. We will also be using this text to spark front page newspaper reports around the theme of a country fair. We will hold our own Harvest festival as a class, and plan activities and competitions to create an authentic atmosphere. As ever, lots of preparatory work including drama and speaking and listening work will be used to develop our writing skills.

**Maths:** This term we will be developing our mental maths strategies in all four operations, and using these skills to find number bonds to 100 and double and halve 3-digit numbers. We will review and expand our understanding of place value, comparing whole and decimal numbers, ordering them using a number line. We will be emphasizing multiplication and division facts for the 6 and 9 times tables, and will use grid and column methods to multiply two digit numbers. We will practise telling time to the minute on both analogue and digital clocks, as well as converting standard units of measurement.

**Science:** In science we will be exploring the theme of "Moving and Growing," in which we will learn that life processes in both humans and animals include movement and growth. We will look at how humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles, and how these support and protect our bodies and help us to move.

**Computing:** In ICT we will become software developers, and learn the skills we need to create and develop a simple educational game using laptops.

**History:** Within this topic, we will be examining historic aspects of the Borough of Richmond, including links to the Tudor Monarchy. We will spend time examining how the River Thames shaped the history of our borough, and investigate the people and events that have changed the course of Richmond History. We will focus our investigation of the Tudors on the similarities and differences between Tudor daily life and our own, while dipping into the captivating story of King Henry VIII and his wives. We will work on placing the Tudor period into context within British and World history.

**PSHE:** This term we will be sharing information about ourselves in circle time, focusing on dealing with the changes that are part of being in Crocodile Class.

**RSE:** This term in Relationship and Sexual Education, we will be looking at the human life cycle and the way a child's body changes as they grow. We will also be looking at some basic facts around puberty, reproduction and pregnancy.

**Music:** Crocodile Class is very excited to begin our study of Brass instruments, which will begin on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September (2.00-3.00pm). Part of a free scheme run by Richmond Music Trust, all children will be learning to play a brass instrument. This is a wonderful opportunity for budding musicians to discover a new talent. Parents and carers will be invited in to school for a performance at the end of eight weeks worth of practising. Dates will be in the weekly bulletin in due course.

**French:** In French our topic for the first half term will be greetings and 'all about me'. Year 4 will build conversations by asking and replying to questions such as 'what's your name, how old are you and where do you live?' Across the whole term Year 4 will also focus on numbers 1-20. After half term our topic will be class room routines and will include key classroom instructions and vocabulary, the alphabet and colours which link into our end of term Christmas activities.

**RE:** This term, we will be looking at different aspects of Hinduism, as well as Advent and different celebrations of Christmas around the world.

**PE/Games:** Motive8 coaches will take Crocodile Class to the field every **Tuesday** for Outdoor PE, while the **Friday** PE session, focusing on dance and movement, will be taught by the class teacher. Please remember to bring in a full PE kit for Tuesday, and kits will be sent home on Friday afternoons.

**Art:** This term in Art we will begin with drawing techniques. We will experiment with different shapes and textures using a variety of materials, focusing on pencil, graphite and oil pastels. We will spend the second part of the term experimenting with collage, using the work of Matisse, Bacon and Warhol to inspire us.

**Options:** All children have chosen activities that they would like to do from a selected list. This year the choices are PE, Forest Schools, Art, Drama, Kew's News and Extension Swimming. All children will complete three of these choices across the year so, if your child did not get their first choice this time, they will get it by the end of the year. Options take place on Friday afternoons between 2.00 and 3.00pm. If your child has a P.E Option, they will need their PE kit. If your child is in Forest Schools, please ensure that they have wet weather gear, as well as clothing that can get dirty – they will be venturing into nature in rain or shine!

**Home learning:** In line with the school's policy, home learning for reading, writing and maths is handed out every **Thursday** and given in every **Tuesday**. Work will be marked on Tuesday only.

**Reading:** Please make sure your child reads for at least ten minutes per day and ask them lots of questions to ensure good comprehension. The children will all have new home reading record books this year – it would be helpful if you or your child could make a note of when they read.

**Maths:** A piece of maths work will be given every week to consolidate class work. Fortnightly, the work set will be an online Mathematics challenge. Mental Maths books will be given out fortnightly and **one** ten question section should be completed.

**Writing:** Ten spellings will be given out each week, the children need to write these words into sentences or a story – you can be as adventurous as you like!

**Creative Home Learning:** Six creative activities will be provided at the start of each half term. These can be completed in any order. These pieces of work will be shared in class and will be sent home shortly after.

**Request:** We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages so, if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

**Question Time:** I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any queries or would like to make an appointment to discuss anything. It is always beneficial to discuss or raise queries as soon as they arise in order to clarify, discuss or resolve any issues efficiently. I am available every day for a quick chat at the door once all of the children have gone home. If you require a longer meeting, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are the best times for this.

Here's to an excellent half term ahead!

**Dates for the diary:**

19 <sup>th</sup> September	-	Jeans for Genes Day
19 <sup>th</sup> September	-	PTA Meeting – 9.00 – 10.00am (at school)
17 <sup>th</sup> September	-	Trip – Hampton Court
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	-	PTA AGM – 19.00 – 21.00 (at school)
16 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Library visit
16 <sup>th</sup> October	-	PTA Social – 19.00 – 22.00 (at school)
20 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Art Week 20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> October
24 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Last day of half term (normal time)
<b>Half Term</b>	-	<b>27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	-	Inset Day
4 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Children back to school
18 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-	Parents consultations
5 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Kew Sparkle (Kew village)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Key Stage 2 – Richmond Theatre
12 <sup>th</sup> December	-	PTA Christmas Fair (school hall)
18 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Lunch
18 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Library visit
19 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Last day of term (normal time)

Many thanks,  
Olivia, Ben, Leo and Josh