

KEW RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2015

Dear Crocodile Parents and Carers,

Wow, what a busy and exciting first term! We enjoyed a fascinating visit from Chelsea Pensioner Marjorie Cole to commemorate Remembrance Day, ran like the wind in Borough Sports, and got creative (and a little messy!) carving pumpkins during Art Week!



This term our topic is **Mountains**.

We will be kicking off this exciting topic with an in-school drama experience around "Conquering Everest", as well as a trip to the Natural History Museum to explore volcanoes and earthquakes. More details will follow in the weekly bulletin, so stay tuned!

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

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains.htm>

<http://www.euratlas.net/geography/world/mountains/>

<http://www.alanarnette.com/kids/everestfacts.php>

English: This term we will be exploring letter writing using the touching story of 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' as inspiration. We will also be reading the delicious classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' as the starting point for narrative writing and character descriptions. We will also use this story to create riddles and Kenning-style poems about our favourite sweets and the quirky characters in the novel. We will make cross-curricular links between our mountain topic and our writing when we explore calligram and concrete poetry styles.

Maths: This term we will be placing and rounding 4-digit numbers on landmarked lines, and using mental strategies to add and subtract using place value. We will continue to develop our expanded and compact column subtractions, as well as focusing on mental multiplication and division strategies. We will work on recognising and comparing angles. We will use money to help us develop strategies to solve word problems, and examine decimals in detail. We will also revisit time and work on converting between 24-hour and 12-hour clocks.

Science: In science, we will be completing our study of habitats, and then moving on to study a unit on "Keeping Warm." We will be practising using a thermometer to measure temperature, and exploring thermal insulation and conductors. We will then move on to study "Solids, Liquids and how they can be separated." During this unit we will learn to recognise the differences between solids, liquids and gases, the causes and effects of melting and freezing, and the use of filtration to separate undissolved solids from liquid.

Computing: In ICT, we will continue to develop our research and publishing skills using a range of programs. Our ICT lessons will be linked to our mountain topic, and will use our computing skills to prepare presentations to share our learning with our peers.

Geography: This term our class topic will be **Mountains**. We will be using maps, atlases and globes to discover how features have changed over time. We will describe and explore key aspects of human and physical geography, including climate zones, earthquakes, volcanoes, settlement and land use, and the distribution of natural resources. To make our study of mountains come alive, we will be having an in-school drama event around "Conquering Everest".

PSHE/Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning: This term we will be using "The Five R's" to encourage children to think about the characteristics and traits of life-long learning. We will spend time thinking about the importance of having goals and how to be effective goal setters.

RSE: This term in Relationship and Sex Education, we will be learning about the physical changes that happen to our body during puberty. We will also be developing strategies to deal with feelings in the context of relationships with parents, carers and friends.

Music: Crocodile Class will be continuing to study music with our new experienced music teacher.

RE: This term, we will be exploring and comparing key figures, holidays and traditions in both the Jewish and Christian religions, focussing on Passover and Easter. We will be consolidating our learning on a trip to a local Synagogue.

French: During the Spring term we will be exploring the French children's book *Je m'habille et je te croque!* with the language focus on clothing, colours, days and months as well as numbers. We will be building both written and spoken sentences and explore genders and plural words. We will also start using bi-lingual dictionaries. In French we will also look at customs for epiphany, pancake day and Easter.

PE: Motiv8 coaches will continue to take Crocodile Class to the field every **Tuesday** for Outdoor PE, while the **Friday** PE session, focusing on Gymnastics will be taught by me. 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 focussing on painting techniques. We will explore painting on different surfaces and textures, and gather inspiration from painters such as Turner and O'Keefe. We will also look at textiles, and experiment with mono-printing and dip-dying.

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. Children may also be given a reading comprehension exercise to complete.

Maths: A piece of maths work will be given every week to consolidate class work. Mental Maths books will be given out fortnightly and **one** ten question section should be completed.

Writing: Eight 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: Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any queries or would like to make an appointment to discuss anything. 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 afternoon is the best time for this.

Here's to another excellent term ahead!

Dates for the diary:

5th January
6th January
26th January
6th February
25th February
17th – 21st February

Inset Day

Term Starts

The Natural History Museum – Crocodile Class
Trip – Richmond Synagogue
Workshop – Teaching through Drama
Half Term

Many thanks,
Olivia, Ben, Leo and Josh