

Summer Newsletter

Year 4 – The Meerkats



Visit our class web pages: http://www.witneycommunityprimaryschool.org.uk/button_classes_04.html

Mrs Bowles & Mr Conway

HELLO!

We hope that you have had a good Easter break. The Easter science homework - on a world without electricity- should have encouraged some very interesting discussions between you and your child. A life without TV, computers and games consoles! Can the children imagine what they might do without them?

Topic (Terms 5 and 6) The Olympics



The next two terms will be dedicated to the Olympic Games. It might be the only time in our lives when the games take place in our country, so it is well worth spending two terms learning all about the history of the Olympics and linking our learning in other subjects to this unique occasion.

Maths

I would like to thank those parents who have actively encouraged their children to learn their times tables.

We are getting really strong improvements in the children's ability to recall the basic times tables. A lot of our maths will be linked to time and distance as well as recording of Olympic



results in graphs and tables. Over both terms we will continue to focus on the language of maths and its use across the whole of the maths curriculum. So much of the maths homework will consist of word based maths questions. It would be really great if you could sit with your child and let them read the problems out loud to you and then discuss with you exactly what maths they need to do to solve the problem. **Talking about maths** problems will help them learn to understand the language. We will also be learning some more formal written methods for doing addition, subtraction and multiplication of two digit and three digit numbers. You can find our school calculation policy (which shows you and explains the methods that the children are taught) on our school website here:

http://www.witneycommunityprimaryschool.org.uk/downloadables/Calculation_policy.pdf



Reading

Enjoying, Understanding and Analysing

Reading is at the heart of accessing information needed by your child throughout their life.

Comprehension and analysis of what they are reading will continue to be a major focus over the next two terms, with lots of exercises in analysing different types of text and being "Information and understanding detectives". **If you can, please try to read with your child two to three times a week for ten minutes or so, and record some of your own feedback alongside that of the child in their reading diary.**

REMEMBER: There is a downloadable document in our "Parent Downloads" section of the Year 4 class page on the school website. This gives you advice on how to help your child with their reading and have fun at the same time.

http://www.witneycommunityprimaryschool.org.uk/downloads/supporting_your_child_read_write.pdf

Religious Education/PSHCE



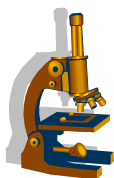
We will look at religions around the world as represented by the countries in the Olympics. In PSHCE we will be looking at the Jesse Owens story from the 1936 Olympics and investigating issues of discrimination and prejudice. We will investigate the growing importance of the Paralympics. We will look at goal setting and the dedication that athletes across all sports need if they are to be successful. The word success will also be set in context; so that the children see that winning is not the only success criterion in life.

PE **Change of PE day**



In Terms 5 & 6 the children will have PE every **Monday morning** and Wednesday afternoon. Trainers and a tracksuit will be needed for outdoor PE as well as shorts and top for hall based PE. There are several inter school events planned for Year 4 this summer, including tennis and athletics. Our Monday PE lessons will often be linked to science this term where we are studying Forces among other things. So it is even more important that **ALL** the children participate in PE. **PLEASE ensure that ALL children have PE kit with them every week.**

Science



In Terms 5 and 6 we will be looking at several science subjects including Electricity, Forces, and Thermal Conductors and Insulators. Links with the Olympics will be very strong for the subject of forces where we will build and test various designs of javelin, discuss, hammer and shot and look at how sportswear design reduces friction and drag to help athletes of all types to go quicker. The children really enjoyed their child led investigations last term and we will be doing more of

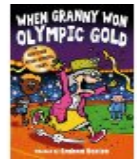
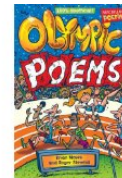
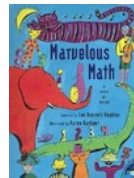
these in Terms 5 and 6. We will investigate the increasing importance of electronics in the Olympics and how electricity has changed things since 1896.

Poetry

We will be doing a lot of poetry in Terms 5 and 6. We will be looking at poems linked to the Olympics.

We will also look at poetry linked to Maths! This book merges poetry with maths and we will see if this link can help our children with their enjoyment and understanding of both subjects.

Geography, Music, Art, Design Technology & French



There is a feast of things we can do with these subjects linked directly to our topic. Just some tasters: we will learn the USA and French National Anthems, design our own Olympic logo, plan a journey around London for Olympic tourists, investigate change of land use in the East End of London, make drums and try to emulate the drummers in the Beijing opening ceremony! Make suitable meals for a marathon runner and a sprinter. Find and map where all the previous Olympics took place. Look at global time zones and see what time people in other countries will be watching events live in London.

Homework

The BIG WRITE talk homework is perhaps the most important for the children, I hope that in the last two terms you can spare some time to talk to your child about their Big Write for that week. **Please try to give your child the ten to fifteen minutes they need every Wednesday and Thursday evenings to discuss what they are going to write on Friday.**

Maths homework is important and I would ask you to please look out for it coming home at least once per fortnight. Keep up the good work with helping your children at home with their times tables, reading comprehension and where appropriate spellings or word investigations.