

Spring Term 2017

Year 4 – The Flying Eagles

Class News

Welcome back to 2017 in Year 4! The children have made a great start again, showing lots of lively enthusiasm and working hard.

The holiday homework on learning times tables facts is already paying off. Most children are beating their 'personal bests' each week in our regular practice sessions, which is brilliant!

Creative Curriculum:

Our main topic for this first half term is a geography one, involving mapping key world features and locations, but focusing mainly on mountain regions. This exciting and creative theme also has many opportunities for reading and writing, drama, Science, Art and other curriculum areas.

Though we can't quite replicate high altitudes here, we can use video clips and first person experiences to help the children realise what challenges they can present!

The children have already brought in some excellent research homework on famous, familiar mountains. Many have chosen places they have visited, which adds extra interest to their work. We continue to encourage the children to ask key questions and use helpful talk to build confidence, self-reliance and independence. These are real life skills for the future.

Linking with our topic, we are reading the classic text '**The Hobbit**' – a challenge, but worth it! To supplement the book, we may use clips from the 2012 film version of the book. As this has been given a 12A rating, we will choose excerpts carefully. Please let

me know if you have any reservations about your child watching on this basis. After half term, we move on to a very different theme: 'Playlist', which focuses on expressive arts, particularly musical performances. Lots of fun to come!

Core subjects:

We will be practising key essential tools for learning in English and Maths. These will include times tables, basic spelling patterns and reading skills. What we do in school can always be made more effective by extra practice with you at home, so do ask if you would like ideas for ways to help your child. We also try to put these key skills in real, fun contexts. This term, we have organised a theatre group performance as well as a visiting author to work with us. Key Science and computer skills taught will also support children in their learning.

Growth Mindset:

The children continue to use very positive approaches to their own learning, and are quick to point out times when a 'Can do!' attitude really helps. The focus will be extended this term, as we invite parents in to see real approaches in action in the classroom—more details soon. Within the class, we continue to make 'experts' in various ways. We are all 'intelligent' in different areas, so can offer support to each other while we widen our own skills.

PPA:

The children will be doing P.E. and Music sessions with Mr Thomas and Miss Soden on **Thursday mornings**, so need to make sure they are fully equipped for those sessions, including warm, waterproof outdoor clothing and safe

footwear, as it is the coldest part of the year.

Swimming: we have begun weekly lessons which will continue now until the end of March. The children have been re-assessed recently and re-grouped accordingly.

Homework:

Homework will normally be sent home on a Friday and should be handed in on the following Friday. The children are clear now about deadlines and expectations. The pattern may occasionally change from time to time but you will have notice of this. Please let me know if any homework issues arise.

Library box time:

In the absence of Library van visits, we will be organising a regular time for children to change school library books and share reading time with 'Buddies'. If you are able, please encourage your child to continue using their Oxfordshire Libraries card at Witney or any other Branch library.

Website:

If you have access to the internet, please use the school website - we will try to ensure it is updated as often as possible. You will be able to see class achievement information, photos of activities and details of homework.

Thank you in advance for all your support. We want to make this an enjoyable, productive year for you and your children, so if you have any questions, please do come and ask us.

Mrs Eagle & Mrs Hageman

<p><u>SCIENCE</u> States of Matter: water cycle, evaporation and condensation; link with temperature</p> <p>Living things and their habitats: how environmental change can pose dangers, classifying different creatures, food chains</p> <p>Working scientifically: Planning enquiries, record and compare results, use evidence to answer questions, use tables and graphs to present data</p>	<p><u>GEOGRAPHY</u> Use maps and atlases to locate: equator, hemispheres, poles, continents and countries. Use NSEW. Locate and plot mountains and ranges on world maps.</p> <p>See how landscape maps use keys with symbols and how they show land heights - contours etc How does the landscape affect plant and animal life on mountains?</p>	<p><u>HISTORY</u> Charting mountaineering exploits on timelines</p>	<p><u>MUSIC</u> Expressive themes - e.g. to sound picture to accompany illustration of landscape</p> <p>Lyrics for songs, raps e.g. make up simple mnemonic or explanation for water cycle, dwarf marching songs</p>	<p><u>ENGLISH</u> Sagas - the traditional stories told in the past. Fantasy Narrative: The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien</p> <p>Fact files on different aspects of mountains; expeditions, animal and plant life etc; information leaflets Explanations: how the water cycle works</p> <p>Playscripts, letters, recounts, diaries</p>
<p><u>PE</u></p> <p>Tag Rugby/ Rugby League</p> <p>Gymnastics</p> <p>Swimming</p>	<p><u>ART & DT</u> Clay modelling: design 3D model mountains, use paint or glaze to create special effects Weaving: contour and geometric patterns using wool, ribbons, threads etc</p> <p>Collage: landscape art</p>	<p><u>PSHCE</u> Facing new challenges and succeeding</p> <p>Outdoor safety, tips for survival</p>	<p><u>MATHS</u> Using graphs and tables to present data Different units of measurement and conversions between them. Maps.... direction, coordinates, scales etc</p>	<p><u>RE</u> Importance for Jewish people to follow what God asks them to do. Is religion the most important influence in everyone's life? Passover and keeping food laws</p>

