

# Year 4 – Cliff Climbers

## Spring Newsletter 2019



Hello and happy New Year! I hope you have all had a relaxing Christmas and well deserved break. We are now entering our Spring Term and there is lots to tell you about. As always, if you would like to come and have a chat with myself or Mrs Newton about any concerns or questions you have, you can catch us at the end of the school day!

Below, you will find an overview of what to expect in the jam-packed term ahead.

**Topic:** Our next topic is 'ECO HEROES'. This half-term we will be exploring the impact of landfill and rubbish on the environment. We will look at the consumption and use of plastic bags on a global scale along with national and global initiatives to encourage recycling. The children will take part in an investigation incorporating science, DT and enterprising skills to design and create thoughtful solutions to reduce the waste created around school. Our Science lessons will focus primarily on electricity and circuits. In Art & DT, children will be inspired by videos of the dance group 'STOMP' and have the opportunity to design and make their own musical instrument from recycled parts. We will also be making a delicious dish from scraps that often get thrown away! Mrs Graham will continue to teach RE and ICT on a Tuesday Morning. In ICT, we will be using the software Purple-Mash to create blogs and record graphs from questionnaires about recycling.

### Reading:

Our Class text this half term is 'Rubbish Town Hero' by Nicola Davies. This fantastic book explores the themes of waste, poverty and war in a small African community. Our daily shared reading sessions will involve all children reading, interpreting, predicting and summarising extracts from this text. We also provide the children with opportunities to access comprehension style questions for a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts every week.

We ask that you read with or to your child whenever possible. I will be checking reading diaries weekly so please leave a comment or come and speak to me if you have any comments or questions! Reading Egg logins can be found on the inside of children's reading diaries – this is a fantastic website that allows children to access a whole library of age appropriate texts on a tablet or computer.

**P.E:** Year 4 will be having P.E. twice a week; on a Monday morning and Wednesday morning. One of these sessions will be gymnastics in the hall. The other will be basketball outside. **Please ensure that the children bring the appropriate kit along on those days.** Please also ensure that children have removed any jewellery that day.

**Maths:** Year 4 will start the term by consolidating their multiplication and division skills. We will then move on to equivalent fractions, the relationship between decimals and fractions and finally, addition and subtraction of fractions with the same denominator. Throughout, children will be accessing increasingly challenging reasoning and problem solving style questions which rely on them making connections to skills they are learning. I am really pleased to let you know I have seen so much progress in the children's learning of times tables so far (especially through the times-table challenge!), **please continue to help your child practise their 7,8, 9 and 12 times tables** as it will really support their understanding of new mathematical concepts!

**English:** Our writing will be linked to our class text 'Rubbish Town Hero'. The children will have opportunities to develop their writing through diary recounts, poetry and character and setting descriptions. To ensure the children get the most out of this topic, we will also be reading a range of non-fiction texts and writing a non-chronological report about their recycling research. We will continue to have a weekly spelling test and regular opportunities for the children to practise their handwriting. **Please continue to support the children at home with their handwriting and spelling practice and let me know if you would like another spelling sheet!**