

# Four Lanes Community Junior School



## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1 2016

4R Mr Reeves (team leader), 4D Mr Davey, 4G Mrs Godliman  
LSAs: Mrs Gill, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Mill

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and an enjoyable New Year. We would like to take the opportunity to thank you again for your support in the Lower School Christmas play and we are sure you will agree that the children performed magnificently. We have an exciting range of opportunities planned for your child's learning this term and are looking forward to seeing the progress that the children make. Our unit outcome will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March where the children will be able to share their learning with you. If you are able to offer any time to support learning in school, perhaps by hearing readers or helping with times tables, please speak to a Year 4 teacher – your time would be invaluable!

### Main topics and learning this half term:

Getting to Grips with the United Kingdom

Food Chains

**This half term our main topic area is 'Getting to Grips with the United Kingdom'**

Through this topic the children will learn about the geographical features of the countries that comprise the United Kingdom. They will become familiar with the main regions, major cities, rivers, counties, and features of the United Kingdom. The study will start from a local scale and move outwards to encompass Hampshire and then the UK as a whole. The classes have already made a start by writing about what makes the area they live in special.

**Our main topic will link to lots of other aspects of the curriculum:**

- Writing non-chronological reports relating to areas of the UK
- Research on the internet to find out about specific areas of the UK
- Creating a virtual tour of the United Kingdom
- Measuring distances between locations in the UK and interpreting timetables

In Maths we will also be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing using informal and formal methods and in English we will be writing about imaginary worlds, recognising themes in what they have read such as the triumph of good over evil. We will also be recognising conventions such as the use of magical devices and the use of first person.

In science this term we will be classifying living things and investigating food chains in different habitats. Questions such as 'Do penguins live in the sea or on land?' have already raised interesting debate! If you see animals in the local environment or on television please take the opportunity to discuss their food source or what might eat them!

In PE our games will focus on rugby skills and in Gymnastics we are perfecting the art of balance and co-ordination.

#### How you can support your child's learning at home:

- Daily reading and times tables practice will be invaluable to your child's learning. Please record these activities in the home-link book.
- Your child is still signed up for 'My Maths', there are many activities and games that will complement the work that they are completing in class.
- 'Out and About Maths' Look out for examples of maths in everyday situations, this will help your child to put maths in context, making it more meaningful.

#### Homework Project:

The homework project this term is to keep a geo-doodle. This is a notebook in which to record events and happenings within the UK. These could include articles from the news programmes, internet or newspapers. A map at the beginning of the notebook may be a good idea so as to locate the different events in the country. In the doodle the children can state which country, county and town the event took place and also a brief summary of the event.

PE will take place on Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursdays (indoor) this term. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on these days.

Maths homework is given out fortnightly with the alternate week providing time for the homework project to be completed.