

Four Lanes Community Junior School



Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1 2016

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Happy New 2016!

The Year 5 team hope that you have had a good break and that you are ready and raring to dive into our new wet and watery topic of Rivers. You only need to look at the news over the Christmas period to realise what an important area of investigation this is for the children to understand.

In addition we will also be going to The Aquadrome for swimming lessons and completing a local river study.

Main topics and learning this half term:

Fantastic Forces

Riveting Rivers

Within the overarching topic of Rivers there are wonderful opportunities to make links with other areas of the curriculum:

In English we have already started to investigate river legends from around the world and will move into explanations of the water cycle and persuasive writing about watery issues as the term progresses. Geographically the children will explore both physical and human features and touch on some of the more contentious issues that surround water consumption on our planet.

Phases Two of our mathematical work will focus the children on different types of numbers; decimal, negative and special numbers in addition to problem solving. Our work will also link beautifully with river data handling in ICT. Our focus on Forces in science again ties in nicely with the topic as we will be experimenting in and around the concept of friction and water resistance.

Within RE we will cover water as a symbol within the creation story and look to design and build powered boats within DT.

The children's topic launch day will take place on Monday 11th of January with an all new topic celebration afternoon for parents in March (Please watch this space for further details!)

With Rivers being so prominent in the news at the moment, please take the opportunity to discuss, share and explain about some of the issues and images that our children will see on the television and in the media. Finally if you have any expertise in any of these areas of learning please don't hesitate to contact us to offer your help.

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

- Practise X tables and look for links between them,
- (e.g. knowing 2x4 helps to solve 2x8, 20x4, 0.2x4 etc.....)
- Read regularly, both aloud and alone. When hearing your child read, go back and ask them about what they have read as we are working to help the children deepen their understanding of the text.
- Don't forget that children can still log in to 'My Maths' to enjoy fun games and activities.
- The children will be participating in Paired Reading on Friday afternoons. Please ask how it is going and have a go at home!

Homework

After the amazing Solar System constructions of last term, we will return to an alternate week format for English and Maths with a focus on rivers.

Homework should take approximately an hour and a half (excluding reading) and we will tailor tasks to work within this time frame.

(In addition please can you find an old pair of wellies for your child that can be left in school so that we can use outdoor space on wet days)

PE will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school on these days.

We would be grateful if you could record in your child's Home-Link Book all the occasions you hear your child read, practise spellings and learn times tables at home to ensure that daily reading is recorded.