

Four Lanes Community Junior School



Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 1 2017

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Happy New 2017!

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.

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

Main topics and learning this half term:

Electricity

Structures

Riveting Rivers

Geographically, in our work about "Rivers", 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. Within the overarching topic there are wonderful opportunities to make links with other areas of the curriculum:

- In English we have already started to write detailed explanations of the water cycle and will move on to persuasive writing about water management issues.
- Phase Two of our mathematical work will focus the children on different types of numbers; decimal, negative numbers in addition to problem solving. Our work will also link beautifully with river data handling in ICT.
- Our focus on Electricity in science, again ties in nicely with the topic as we will be experimenting and creating circuits that will be incorporated into the design and building of a lifting bridge.
- Within RE we will learn to understand "prophethood" in Islam.

The children's topic launch day took place on Wednesday 4th of January with an all new topic celebration afternoon for parents coming 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 Greek project of last term, we will return to an alternate week format for English and Maths with a focus on rivers and water.

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

In addition, please can you find an old pair of wellies that your child can leave in school so that we can use outdoor space on wet days. They will need to be brought in a carrier bag with their name on so that they can be left on their peg.

PE will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 in the Link books.