

# Life in All its Fullness – Come and See



## Year 4

### Spring 2023 Newsletter



We very much hope you have all had a lovely, restful and healthy Christmas break. As we start the Spring Term we have lots of new and exciting learning to look forward to, as well as many opportunities to revisit, consolidate and embed prior learning.

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Daniell and I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt thank you for all our wonderful Christmas gifts.

#### Maths

In Maths, we follow the **Herts Essential Maths** scheme, with other supporting resources. Techniques to support learning include use of partner talk, games, investigations and CPA approaches (concrete, pictorial and abstract). This term, we will be focusing on the following topics: multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100; measure conversion units; comparing, estimating and calculating measure; interpreting and presenting discrete and continuous data using appropriate methods; measuring and calculating perimeter; properties of shape; symmetry; recognising and using decimal numbers; money; problem solving and exploring fractions. Additional short **Maths Fluency** sessions will be delivered, to work alongside the main lessons.



#### English

In English this term, we will continue having lots of opportunities to develop our ideas, as well as practise improving our writing by up-levering vocabulary and ensuring our sentence structure has good punctuation and grammar. The first half of the term our focus text will be based around a story with a theme. 'My Name is not Refugee' will give us lots of opportunities to read and respond to a story, develop our inference skills to interpret a character's feelings, identify features of non-chronological reports and an opportunity to write our own narrative, followed by self-evaluation to improve our work. We will also be developing our poetry knowledge and skills. During the second half of the term, our focus will be based around our **LKS2 production** (further details to follow) and the skills needed to understand and perform using a play script. **Whole class Guided Reading** sessions will continue, as well as a number of short **spelling** sessions each week based around the Herts Essential Spelling Scheme. The children will also continue to develop their **handwriting** skills. Please note that the expectation of the **National Curriculum** for expected standards by the end of Year 4 states 'maintain the use of joined handwriting throughout independent writing'.

#### Science

During this term we will be exploring **sound**. We will identify how sounds are made, associate them with something vibrating and recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. The children will have many opportunities to work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate and learn how to present their findings scientifically.



#### Geography

For the entire Spring term, we will be immersing ourselves in the topic **Wonderful Water**. We will be looking at the features and stages of rivers and the relationship rivers have to the water cycle. We will be investigating and explaining how human activity affects rivers, together with the impact and affect flooding has on communities. During the second half of the term will be conducting an in depth study on one of the world's longest rivers.

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## RE

We will be continuing to follow our excellent *The Emmanuel Project* scheme. This term the children will have opportunities to further their knowledge of Christianity and Hinduism by unpicking the following big questions:

Spring 1: How does the story of Rama and Sita inspire Hindus to follow their dharma?

Spring 2: Why are good stewardship & generous giving important for every Christian?



## Art and DT

Art and DT are not a main focus this term. However, where possible opportunities to practice and develop our skills will be linked to our Geography Topic 'Wonderful Water' including a brief artist study on David Hockney and his fascination with painting water.

## PE

PE will continue to be on Mondays and Thursdays each week. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kits on those days. This half term we will be focusing on our gymnastic and invasion: handball skills. During the second half of the term we will be developing our tennis and dance skills. Lessons will continue to be outside as much as possible, so please do make sure that clothing is appropriate for all weathers. A spare pair of socks in their school bag might be helpful.



## Computing

Over the coming term we are going to start developing our skills to support 'effective searching', as well as being able to name and identify functions of computer hardware.

## Music

Using our excellent music scheme, **Charanga**, the children will learn to explore and develop playing skills using the glockenspiel and to listen and appraise Stop! (Grime) which includes writing lyrics linked to a theme.



## RHE

Lessons will follow the JIGSAW scheme of work. This term we will be looking at our 'Dreams and Goals' and what it is to be 'Healthy Me.'

## Further information

It is vital your child **reads daily** as much as possible – reading really does underpin so many areas of learning. By the end of Year 4 your child should know their multiplication and division facts for **times tables** up to 12 x 12. Whilst we will practice a huge amount in school, it is imperative your child practices at home regularly too to develop speed of recall and fluency. This knowledge really does feed into so many areas of Maths. **Towards the end of the year, the children will sit the 'Multiplication Tables Check'.** Your support, therefore, in encouraging practice of multiplication tables at home is much appreciated. Resources such as the Times Table Rockstars website & the BBC Sport Times Table videos/songs can be fun ways of practising. **Homework** tasks will generally be set via **Microsoft Teams** on a weekly basis – handed out on a Friday and returned the following Wednesday. These will usually be Maths and a spelling activity but may include other subject areas occasionally. Remember in addition to the weekly homework there is an expectation that children continue to read and practice their times tables and statutory words regularly. Please provide your child with a daily healthy snack for break time and please ensure your child has a **named water bottle** in school each day. As the weather can be cold and wet, please do ensure a coat is brought in every day.

We are really looking forward to another fabulous term, with lots of new learning and experiences for the children, celebrating **life in all its fullness**.

Mrs Handley, Mrs Godfrey and Mrs Daniell