

# ASPIRE



## Year 4 Half Termly Update Spring 1

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school for the New Year. The Year 4 team are looking forward to continuing to work with a cohort of enthusiastic learners. Throughout the term, the children will continue to receive homework on Fridays (please see homework books for grids and weekly spellings). P. E will continue to take place on Wednesday and Friday. Please check the website regularly for any updates and key dates.

### English - writing

The children will use Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* as a model for their own writing. They will get into character and write a diary entry in first person. They will learn how to use different sentence structures and punctuation to emphasise their ideas. Finally, they will show characterisation through dialogue between James and other characters.

### English - reading

The children will read *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. We will practise our reading skills of retrieving and inferring information from the text. We will also discuss Roald Dahl's use of language, plot and characterisation and use drama to bring his story to life! Please continue to ask your children questions about the books they are reading at home.

### Maths

Year 4 will continue learning about multiplication and division and will then explore fractions. Times tables are an important focus this term and we will practise our times tables every day, as well as completing the multiplication championships. The children will then develop their knowledge about fractions, using diagrams to aid their understanding. We will also explore families of common equivalent fractions. In our arithmetic sessions, we will continue to revise key skills and the four operations.

### Science: Electricity

In Science this half term we will be learning about electricity. The children will learn to identify common appliances that run on electricity using a sorting activity. They will construct a simple series electrical circuit which includes cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Children will predict if a lamp will light or not in a simple series circuit based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. Children will learn that a switch opens and closes a circuit by associating this with whether a bulb will work. They will explore conductors and insulators and know that metals are good conductors. They will also carry out a practical experiment to test if various materials conduct electricity.

## Geography: Global Growers

Children will explore food that is grown locally and globally. We will share the story *The World Came to My Place Today*. The story will help children appreciate how the world visits us every day, through the food we have available to us. They will look at where in the world we import food from and the air miles of different foods we buy. The children will consider the pros and cons of importing food. They will also learn about what is grown in the UK and when (seasonality) and explore ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint by buying food that is grown locally.

## PSHE: Physical Health, Wellbeing and Playing Safe

The children will learn why people may eat or avoid certain foods (religious, moral, cultural or health reasons), about other factors that contribute to people's food choices (such as ethical farming) and about the importance of getting enough sleep and healthy eating. The children will also learn how to play safely when they are online.

## Music

Children will continue to learn to play the ukulele with Lena, our music teacher. They will continue to sing in unison, maintaining the correct pitch and using increasing expression. They will play and perform parts with an increasing number of notes, chords and begin to show musical expression by changing dynamics.

## Homework

The children need to read at home every day to develop their confidence and fluency. They should also write a comment in their reading diary. They need to practise maths on Doodle Maths/Tables every day. Weekly spelling will be given on Friday every week. Please practise the spellings with your child.

## Physical Education:

The children will be practising OAA games. These games focus on teamwork and communication skills. On Fridays, the classes will continue to rotate (each half term) between Dance and Gymnastics.

## Computing:

This half term, the children will learn about safe internet, exploring themes around scams and phishing. They will also gain skills around using Google slides.

## Zones of Regulation:

Children will continue to expand their knowledge on the Zones of Regulation and identify what zones they're in and talk about their emotions as well as identifying their needs and focus on strategies they can use to get into the green zone.