

### Maths

To support your child with their maths in Year 4 here are some helpful pointers:

- We have a big focus on learning times tables and are expecting the children to make full use of Times Tables Rockstars which your child has their own username and password for. Please see your child's teacher if they are not able to access the internet at home.
- We are continuing to send out weekly Times Tables Rockstars homework; please indicate how your child does in three minutes then encourage them to complete the remaining questions.
- We are also practising time tables twice a week for three minutes using the Times Tables Rockstars sheets.
- Another focus for our maths learning is telling the digital time in both 12 and 24hr; please take as many opportunities as you can to practise this skill at home.
- If you have any queries about your child's maths or any aspect of their maths learning then please do not hesitate to speak with their teacher about it

### Special sessions!

Swimming sessions will continue at the Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre for the current group of swimmers. Class 4J will have French lessons with Madame Longley. Forest School will also continue so please ensure that your child has their forest school clothing in school.

## Our topic is FLOW

Welcome back to the new year and our first topic for Spring Term. We will be learning about rivers and using the Kenneth Grahame novel 'Wind in the Willows' as a stimulus for our writing. The children will be visiting the nearby River Arrow in Redditch to experience a river in real life and identify the various features we will learning about. We have also planned an exciting rivers exhibition at the end of the topic where the children will present to family and friends the variety of work they have produced over the half term.

### English

**How can you help your child in English? Here are some great ideas:**

- Please continue to support your child with reading at home, they may prefer to read to themselves instead of reading aloud which is great too. Please record this entry in their reading record so it counts towards their number of weekly reads.
- We have a focus on creating imagery through vocabulary choices in Year 4 so you could discuss this with your child, supporting them to identify and pick out effective vocabulary and word types. Look for sentences starting with a fronted adverbial with them as this is a Year 4 writing expectation. Also ask your child to be inverted commas and the associated punctuation spotters; this will support them with using this with more accuracy in their writing
- Try to share books that support the topic so for this half term, maybe you could have a look for books about different animals and where they might live. Alternatively, you could look for books about rivers and learn about some of their features. Explore the contents page and look out for any specific topic related vocabulary.

### Topic

Our topic for this half-term is Flow which has a Geography and Science focus within our topic work. Learning will include:

- identifying the significant features of rivers through their journey from source to end
- locating the oceans of the world and seas using an atlas
- understanding what happens in each stage of the water cycle
- understand the importance of water and the effect of human impact on our rivers
- learning the features of living things.
- classifying and grouping different living things according to their features and using branching software on the computer to achieve this

**Unlocking the learning at home...**as always we have received some super examples of home learning which are always on display in the main entrance. Please remember that if your child is unsure of their home learning then we can help with resources to complete their home learning, or discuss ideas with them. Please just ask one of us for support. We believe it is very important that every child has the opportunity to engage with learning at home and will support however we can with this.

**KEY STAGE 2 Home Learning Projects**

4J 4M

The children in Year 4 will be taking part in 'Creative Homework Projects' that we would like them to complete over the coming weeks. The project for this half term is Flow, a project about rivers.

We look forward to seeing the results and would like the children to bring their completed projects into school by the week beginning Monday, 4th February, so that they can share and celebrate each other's talents before the end of term. We would ask that this project reflects six weeks' worth of work, and demonstrates the children's own work, although we really appreciate your support in helping them complete their homework.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Mrs Jones and Miss Moody

<p><b>Library time</b> Take a trip to your local library. Use the contents and index pages to find information on rivers. Which is the longest? Where is it on a map? Find lots of facts about it.</p>	<p><b>Landscape artwork</b> Look at the works of Claude Monet of rivers and water and observe how the artist uses colour. Sketch a river scene and use watercolours or other materials to create your own landscape artwork.</p>	<p><b>River poetry</b> Write a poem about a river flowing from its source to the sea. Describe its current and how it varies throughout its journey. You could even present it like a river meandering across the page.</p>
<p><b>Pooh sticks</b> Visit a local river and play Pooh sticks. Then research the river from its source to end.</p>	<p><b>Floating and sinking</b> Place different items in water but before you do predict if it will sink or float. Keep a chart of your results. What have you found out?</p>	<p><b>Saving water</b> Find out how to save water around your house. Can you help your family save water? How do you save water? Create a poster to tell us all about it.</p>
<p><b>Supermarket study</b> At the supermarket check out and compare the ingredients in household cleaning products. Many contain harmful chemicals that are washed down the drain. Can you encourage your parents to buy more eco-friendly products?</p>	<p><b>Water current</b> Experiment with water current. Can you make things move across water without even touching them?</p>	<p><b>Water cycle</b> What can you find out about the water cycle? Make a model, draw and write about it. How important is it to life on Earth?</p>