

Happy New Year to Y4 children and parents and welcome back to an exciting new topic which we have called, 'A Chance To Change Our Future'. This is a geography and science based unit of learning in which the children will learn about the effect of climate change on human and animal communities. This will lead into a school wide sustainability week at the end of term and an exciting visit for Y4 to The Peak Wildlife Park to meet the Polar Bears.

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday January 6th School reopens

Thursday January 15th Single Use Plastic Day

January 23rd to 25th Garden Bird Watch

Thursday January 29th Switch Off Day

Wednesday January 28th 5:00 p.m.

Northumberland residential meeting

Week beg 2nd February Walk To School Week

Wednesday February 4th Eco Fair 3:20 – 4:00 p.m.

Friday February 6th Peak Wildlife Park visit

Friday February 13th School Closes for half-term holiday.

Monday 23rd February School reopens.

Science

In our National Curriculum topic, 'Living Things and their Habitats' children will be taught how animals and plants are classified by scientists. They will build a branching database to sort vertebrates according to their characteristics and how changing habitats can pose dangers to all living things including humans.

PE

Swimming lessons have now ended until Y5. Games lessons (hockey) will continue outside on Tuesday afternoons. On Thursday, the children will alternate between yoga and circuits in our school hall led by Mrs Buchanan. As usual PE kits can live on pegs in school unless we have a particularly muddy lesson. Please ensure that your child's belongings are labelled to avoid them ending up in our pile of lost property.



Mathematics

Multiplication and division methods both formal and informal remain the focus as we begin the new year. The children will consolidate rules of divisibility to recognise when numbers are multiples of different times tables, for example the digital sum of all multiples of 9 is 9. They will move from an informal (e.g. partitioning) to a formal method of multiplication (short multiplication) which they will use throughout key stage two.

As we move ever closer to June's Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), please ensure that you are focussing on any 'bugbear' facts that your child is struggling to recall (4 x 8 is a common one at this stage). You can find these highlighted on your child's TTRS 'heatmap' that came home with them in the last week of the autumn term.

Geography

The children will be taught some geographical terms to describe our planet; Northern and Southern Hemispheres, The Equator and Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. They will understand the difference between weather and climate before finding out how The Earth is divided into different climatic zones. The Arctic climate zone becomes a focus as the children learn about how this fragile habitat and populations of Polar Bears have been affected by climatic change.

English

As this is an issues led topic, there is an opportunity for the children to engage in some persuasive drama and writing. As usual, we will look at some examples of this type of writing and the sentence and word level features that it uses. We will be making use of 'The Great Bear' a debut picture book by Annie Booker, 'Winston of Churchill' by Jean Davies Okimoto and 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold.

Please help us to keep the children motivated with their reading by reading to and with them as well as signing their yellow reading diaries.

Spanish

We want the children to make use of the phrases '*me gusta...*' and '*no me gusta...*' to express their likes and dislikes. After beginning with foodstuffs and the names of fruits and vegetables, we will extend this to include '*las asignaturas*' which are school subjects.