Dear Parents/Carers Spring 2021

First, another huge thank you for all of your hard work helping the children with their home learning over this latest lockdown period. It's great to see all of the work being sent in to Class Dojo! Here is the Year 4 curriculum overview for the Spring Term.

# Autumn The World in Our Hands Focuses on key aspects of physical

Focuses on key aspects of physical Geography including climate zones and biomes.

# Spring African Adventures



Based on the achievements of ancient civilizations and comparing different regions in Africa.

# Summer Carlton Explorers



Explores the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods.

#### **Curriculum**

In line with our remote learning policy, we aim to deliver four hours of remote learning across a broad and ambitious curriculum. We aim to provide a meaningful learning experience for the children which links to our 'African Adventures' topic, outlined below:

#### **English**

We are focusing on the book 'The White Giraffe' by Lauren St. John. The story follows eleven-year-old Martine Allen who, following the death of her parents, forms a special bond with an elusive white giraffe on her grandmother's South African game reserve. In 'The White Giraffe', the author explores themes of loss, friendship, empathy, and perseverance. The children will produce several types of writing including: description, biography, reports, explanations and balanced discussions. We have used resources and videos from 'The Oak National Academy' to support learning, as well as providing recorded videos and live lessons in Reading and Writing. We also continue to share a class story with the children during the week in order to promote a love of reading. You can still take part in 15 minutes of 'Drop Everything and Read', reading for pleasure time at home each day. This can be recorded on Class Dojo.

# **Spellings**

Spellings will continue to be given out on Mondays within our weekly remote learning PowerPoints and the spelling test will be on Fridays. During the week, children can use 'Spelling Shed' to further develop their understanding.

#### <u>Maths</u>

Daily Maths lessons will focus on the following topics: multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and measures. Please continue to focus on times tables, number skills and fluency each day. Your child will receive a daily recorded or live lesson to support with their Maths learning. Remember: your child can login to 'Times Tables Rock Stars' to improve their rapid recall of times tables and division facts through fun timed activities.

# Science

This term, the children will focus on the topic 'Animals including Humans', where they will learn the basic parts of the human digestive system and identify different types of teeth and their purpose. Continuing from this, children will construct food chains and identify the key characteristics of a food chain linking in with the African plains.

#### **History**

In History, we are learning about Ancient Egypt. The children will start off exploring what kind of environment or biome Egypt is. We will then locate Egypt on our world map and identify where the Ancient Egyptian civilization fits onto our History timeline. The children will learn about many features of the Ancient Egyptian way of life such as: the importance of the River Nile, Mummification, Hieroglyphics, Gods and Goddesses and belief in the afterlife. Moving on, the children will learn about the importance of archaeology in unlocking the past. The class will discuss Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter and their discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. Finally, we will explore how and why the Ancient Egyptian civilisation ended and why it was so influential to modern day life.

#### Art/Design and Technology

We start off exploring 'mixed media' and developing skills in producing different textures. The children will be taught how to develop their techniques, including their control and use of different materials such as: pencil, charcoal and paint when creating observational pictures of African landscapes and animals. We will then move on to study the techniques of African artist Joseph Thiango. The children will learn how Joseph uses media to create his distinctive textures and style. Children will apply their knowledge of Joseph's style to create an African landscape painting of their own.

#### Computing

The children will be learning word processing skills. Some of the skills they will learn are how to change the page design, add borders, use and format text boxes, add and format pictures and add a screenshot. They will also learn how to search for information and images safely and quickly on the Internet. Time will be spent thinking about whether everything on the Internet is true. Moving on from this, the children will learn what a spreadsheet is and why we use them.

#### MFL (Modern Foreign Languages)

This term, the children will be continuing to learn conversational French with Madame Vasco (our French specialist teacher). They will start off learning how to describe different weather conditions before moving on to explore the importance of masculine and feminine nouns.

# PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education)

Our theme in **Spring 1** is 'Dreams and Goals'. It aims to help children think about their hopes and dreams, their goals for success, what personal strengths are, and how to overcome challenges, via team work skills and tasks. There is also a focus on enterprise and fundraising. Children learn about experiencing and managing feelings of pride, ambition, disappointment, success; and they get to share their aspirations, the dreams and goals of others in different cultures/countries, and their dreams for the world. Our theme in **Spring 2** is 'Healthy Me'. It covers two main areas of health: emotional health (relaxation, being safe, friendships, mental health skills, body image, relationships with food, managing stress) and physical health (eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol, being safe, first aid) in order for children to learn that health is a very broad topic. Drug education is taught to each year group, at levels appropriate to the age and needs of the children.

#### RE

In RE, we will be undertaking a unit entitled 'Symbols and Religious Expression'. Within this topic, we will learn to understand the idea of 'pilgrimage'. We will explore key locations that religious people visit such as the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and the River Ganges in India. The children will also discuss what is important to them and they will create their own special journey.

#### PΕ

We have some exciting things planned for PE in Year 4! Each week, Mr Schofield, Mr Huskinson and Mrs Sills will provide all pupils with athletics videos to complete at home as well as providing exciting 'top tips' on how to stay active during the week.

#### <u>Music</u>

In Music, we will be using and exploring staff and other musical notations. We will create our own compositions based on a range of musical notes and will perform these in solo and ensemble contexts. The music will be created through body percussion thereby increasing accuracy, fluency and control.

#### **British Values**

Throughout our topic the children will learn the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The importance of laws and mutual respect will be promoted continuously through the school's behaviour policy. Children will learn the importance of responsibility and relationships when reading our class book 'The White Giraffe'. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs will be taught during RE lessons when discussing Judaism and Hinduism.

# Remote Learning Work

All work should be handed in on Class Dojo and we encourage pupils to ensure they produce their very best 'take care' pieces. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or message your child's class teacher. Thank for your continued support.

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Kind regards,	
D Patchett	K Daly