



## WEEKLY PARENT INFORMATION NEWSLETTER – Year 4

Week beginning Monday 5 January 2015

### Messages

- Thank you a lovely term. The children have all worked so hard this term and achieved so much, they have been a real credit to you.
- Happy New Year to all and a special warm welcome to our new children and families! We are looking forward to getting to know you all.
- Next term Year 4's Themed Learning topic is entitled *Active Planet*.

Each week's learning will begin with a big question to help focus the children's learning and encourage deeper thinking. Some of the questions they will consider are: Why is the earth not as smooth as an egg? When was the world's most destructive volcano? Can we use paintings to explore the past? Should people live on fault lines?

We will learn how to make a working model of a volcano and then investigate how to make a building that can withstand an earthquake. In Geography the children will be developing their mapping skills by tracking major fault lines. Our Art projects will focus on collage and digital media to produce volcanic masterpieces inspired by famous paintings of volcanoes over the past 2000 years. We will continue to conclude each week with our very popular Friday Challenge where all the children compete in a collaborative challenge related to the week's learning.

### Literacy

We will start our Literacy work this term with a unit on poetry. The children will learn how to use poetic techniques to improve the style and impact of their writing. We will begin the week by revising simile and metaphor and then move onto teach the children how to use personification in their writing. They will use music and images to inspire their writing, much of their writing will be linked to our new Themed Learning topic.

### Maths

In Maths we shall review our understanding of place value, extending knowledge to include decimals and very large numbers. We will work with different number representations, including Roman Numerals. There will be a focus on improving mental calculations and recognising patterns and relationships in investigative solutions.

### Themed Learning

#### 'Inventions that changed the World'

We are going to start our new Themed Learning topic with Challenge Week. The children are going to investigate how to make a structure that can withstand an earthquake. The children will investigate the causes and effects of earthquakes.

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Following this the children will build structures that they believe could withstand an earthquake using only spaghetti and marshmallows!

## **PSHCE**

The children will be focusing on setting goals for the coming term. These goals will be personal to them and should be related to a personal and achievable target they would like to achieve this term, such as learning their 7 times table or learning to spell a new word.

## **Vocabulary**

**Literacy** – simile, metaphor, personification, imagery.

**Maths** – numeral, decimal, place value

**Humanities** – fault line, seismic, geology, pacific rim

## **Dutch**

Het nieuwe thema waar we de doelen aan ophangen is sprookjes. Ook gaan we ons stap voor stap voorbereiden op de Cito-toets die in februari zal plaatsvinden.

Groep 4 en 5 richten zich met spelling op de – ng -, -nk-, -ch- en – cht-. Ook proeven we vast aan de open en gesloten klanken.

Groep 6 focust op de open en gesloten klanken.

Groep 7 en 8 werken vooral aan het herhalen van de spellingcategorieën en werkwoordspelling.

## **Mandarin Y4 Panda**

Topic: This is my family

Key Characters: 这是 zhe shi /this is; 几个人 ji ge ren/how many people; 家 jia/family; 有 you/have; 没有 mei you/ have no

Key Sentences: 你家有几个人 ni jia you ji ge ren? /How many people are there in your family?

这是我的一家人 Zhe shi wo de yi jia ren。 / This is my family.

Activities: Smart Board Activity

## **Mandarin Y4 Monkey**

Topic: The Festivals in China and the West

Key Characters: 朋友 pengyou/friend; 新年 xinnian/new year; 放鞭炮 fangbianpao/see off the firecrackers; 春节 chunjie/the Spring Festival

Key sentence pattern: 比如 biru/ for example

Activities: Make a red pocket

## **Mandarin Y4 Horse**

Topic: Lesson 6 I Can Play Instruments

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Key Characters: 听 ting/to listen to; 吹 chui/to blow (an instrument); 有名 youming/  
famous

Key Sentences: 一边 yibian.....一边 yibian...../while...; 得 de/ complement word

Activities: Holiday activities

## **Mandarin Y4 MNDCN**

本周我们将学习课文《马鸣加的新书包》能正确认读本课生字。能有感情地朗读课文，尝试读出不同的语气，体会马鸣加说话时不同的语气。能用自己的话，讲一讲这个故事。