



'Being Better Every Day'

Thursday 24th October 2024

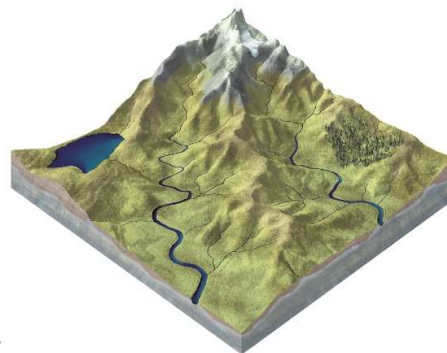
Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Term 2

This term, we are looking forward to learning all about the impact rivers have on societies. The children did fantastically well learning about the Egyptian Civilization and we hope that they enjoy our next unit of work in the same way.

In **Term 2**, our unit title remains **'Walk like an Egyptian'**, with a focus on rivers and the water cycle. There is a big focus on **Geography** in this unit.

In this unit, we will be studying rivers and the water cycle. We'll be investigating evaporation, condensation and precipitation whilst also using looking at the possibilities of water running out. We will be learning about the different stages of a river, where they start and where they end. We'll be researching how human activity effects rivers with a focus on the impacts of different types of dams on the river. We will also be looking at the effect on people who live close to and who use rivers for different reasons and investigating how and why settlements develop near different rivers.

During this unit, your child will attempt to answer the concept question:



'What impact do rivers have on society?'

(We have attached a 'Knowledge Organiser' for this unit, providing an overview of the topic; this should be a useful resource for pupils and parents.)

Curriculum Project

For each unit, we will ask your child to complete a home-learning project. We ask that every child has a go at completing a project that can be brought into school. For this unit we have listed possible ideas below.

- Create a sculpture of a river creature or plant. You could use clay, salt dough, papier mache or any material of your choice.
- Make a model of a boat. This might be a sailing dinghy, barge, canoe, tanker or any other boat you might find on a river.
- A river's depth relies on rainfall. Make a rain gauge and keep a record of how much rain falls over 3 weeks. Produce a graph or table to show your results.
- At a river's estuary people enjoy sailing. Draw some symmetrical designs for a sailing boats sails.
- Draw or paint a picture of a river scene. You could use water colours or any medium you choose.
- Write a story with a river theme. Maybe there is a river monster or a creature which comes to life!
- Create a fishy 'Cook Book' including at least 5 recipes. (You could even try cooking one of these with an adult!)

Alternatively, your child may want to do something completely different! Your child may wish to complete their project by themselves or need your support in completing their project – either is fine and we look forward to see them.



We have also included a list of websites you could explore at home to help your child with their learning:

Useful Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/z7w8pg8>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rivers.html>

<https://www.3dgeography.co.uk/river-worksheets>

<https://www.everschool.co.uk/geography-key-stage-2-rivers.html>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/rivers>

Home learning projects should be completed by the week beginning **Monday 9th December 2024**. If you have any questions about the home learning project, please contact your child's class teacher.

Reading

The children have been really enjoying our 'Destination Reader' work in class. We loved looking at 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. Our next text will be 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. Please continue to encourage daily reading and **home reading records** can be brought in and will be signed once a week (Fridays).

Reading is the single most important skill that children will learn and we expect every child to read at home every day. In Year 4, we expect every child to read with an adult for a minimum of **20 minutes** every day. Reading takes on many forms and can take place just about anywhere, including the reading of labels and signs, and in magazines and comics. Parents and carers should record the daily reading activity in your child's reading record.

Homework

Additionally, we would like the children to be practising their times tables every day for at least **20 minutes**. The children all have an individual account for **Times Table Rock Stars** which they can use to support their learning. The aim is for our Year 4 children to know their times tables really well by the end of the school year. Some children are doing lots of practice on times tables rock stars and it is making a real difference to their speed of recall.

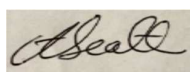
A homework grid of optional tasks will also be sent home at the start of the new term.

PE

This term, our PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday** afternoons. Your child should wear their PE kit to school. As our lessons will be outside, please ensure your child has their Oakwood PE kit and trainers for the lessons.

We hope your child will enjoy their second term in Year 4!

Yours sincerely,



Ms Seath

Year 4 Class Teacher

KNOWLEDGE – EQUALITY – DETERMINATION – ACHIEVEMENT