



# **Woolacombe School**

## **Year 4 Spring Term Newsletter**

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all. I hope that you have had a relaxing break and a wonderful Christmas with friends and family. I am really looking forward to another exciting and very full term with Year 4!

### **Topic**

Our topic this term is Space and Robots! We will be looking at the history of space exploration, learning about the planets in our solar system and exploring the history and future of robotics and the impact this will have on our lives. This theme will underpin our learning across the curriculum including art, geography, history and music. Our big questions include: Are we alone? How big is space? Tim Peake, Katherine Johnson or Galileo? We have some hugely exciting big experiences planned including releasing our own near space balloon and camera which will record its journey from our school up to space and back! We are also really lucky in year 4 to have this amazing topic coincide with our residential in Bristol where we will be investigating all sorts of science threads.

### **English**

Children will be covering a range of text types in their English work, including performance poetry, journalistic writing about our space launch and narrative writing to create tension based on a journey through space. I am really excited about our poetry unit in particular as we will be using music as a stimulus. We will be using Gustav Holst's musical series *The Planets* using descriptive language to compare them.

### **Maths**

This term children will be continuing to develop their understanding of place value. We will also be looking at mental and written methods of addition, subtraction, division and multiplication, as well as continuing times tables practise regularly. We will also be covering fractions and percentages, some more work on shape and position, and covering measurement in more detail. We will be teaching much of our maths through our space context, calculating distance and size for example.

Every Monday and Friday your child will complete a quick times tables test which is recorded and sent home. It is a requirement of the new curriculum that all children master all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of this year, so help at home would be incredibly helpful to your child.

### **Science**

This term's science will obviously be hugely linked to our exciting topic! We will be looking at space and exploration in the first half of term and electricity in the second half. We will be exploring and improving our scientific enquiry through lots of experiments.

### **P.E.**

The children will be taking part in a range of PE activities this term. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school, including: well-fitting trainers, black shorts, black or navy tracksuit trousers, a spare white T-shirt and a clean pair of socks. A plastic bag kept inside the PE bag is always useful too, for muddy trainers to be stored in! Extra carrier bags and rucksacks are not allowed in class due to a lack of space in the cloakroom.

### **Home Learning**

The home reading from this class has been...OUTSTANDING! I am so impressed with your efforts and can see a real impact on your child's reading. Your hard work has been noted and very much appreciated! At this stage it is important to discuss the reading with your child, as well as just listening, in order to ensure a thorough understanding.

I am also really pleased with the response to daily maths home learning, both from children and adults. Again, all the hard work is paying off and impacting on the children's performance. Please keep it up, and well done everyone! A reminder that homework for the other subjects will be set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday.

As well as reading and home learning I also ask that you and your child work through the spellings on the inside cover of their spelling journals. This list is a statutory requirement of all year 4 children by the end of the year. I will then test the children on these every half term and record this in their spelling journals so you can see the progress made.

As previously mentioned, I would also be appreciative of any time you can spare

to go over your child's times tables with them. I am aware I am asking a lot of parents in terms of time for home learning but it is so useful to your child's learning to be practicing all of these skills out of school, and I am already seeing the positive effects of this in class, please keep it up!

### **Student Teacher**

I am very excited to say we have a student teacher joining us this term. Miss Suzie Lee will be in year 4 until half term and is really looking forward to her time with us!

### **General Information**

We encourage the children to be independent and it is their responsibility to bring their Home School Diary and reading books in on a daily basis. Please also make sure that your child has all of the essential stationary in one pencil case: **blue or black handwriting pens**, pencils, coloured pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler and a glue stick. Also a coloured fine-liner or biro for responding to feedback in their books. Finally please ensure that your child is in school ready to start learning, between 8.40 and 8.50, and that full school uniform is being worn (particularly black shoes).

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about our work this term, please do come and see me or contact me through the home school diary.

I am really looking forward to another wonderful term with year 4!

Thanks,  
Miss Challacombe

### Key Dates for your diaries:

**W/C 8.1.18** – Assessment week

**4.2.18** – Lions Swimathon

**W/C 5.2.18** – Parent consultation week

- Rocket launched this week...date to be confirmed depending on weather

**12.2.17** – Half term holidays

**21.2.18** – Planetarium set up in school for all children

**5.3.18** – World Book Day

**6.3.18** – Bristol Residential

**16.3.18** – Woolacombe School swimming gala

W/C **22.3.18** – Science and Engineering open day - date to be confirmed nearer the time

**29.3.17** – Easter service and break up for Easter Holidays