

## Zephaniah Class News

### Welcome Back!

I hope you had a fabulous Christmas break. It is lovely to see the children back rested and excited for their learning and we have enjoyed listening to their Christmas adventures!

Our big question driving our learning this half term is 'How can we protect our planet?' We will be basing a lot of our learning around our Science topic.

### What we are learning....

#### Science

This half term we will be learning about 'Living Things and their habitats'. This fascinating topic will see us investigating our local habitats to see what kind of creatures live there, as well as constructing food webs and thinking about the impact that certain species have on their local environment. Our key scientist is Rachel Carson and we will be learning about her contribution to our understanding of the impact that humans can have on our planet and ways in which we can minimise damage to our world.

#### Maths

This half term we will be learning about Multiplication and Division, by the end of next week we will have learnt all our times tables and so it is essential that your child practises these at home. Our times tables test will take place at the end of the year and the children will be tested on every times table up to  $12 \times 12$ . Becoming fluent in these skills now will help your child with the rest of our maths learning throughout the year.

#### English

We have nearly finished our class novel, 'A Place called Perfect' and are looking forward to reading our next book which is 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. Our library day is Friday and each child will have the opportunity to change their reading for pleasure book if they would like to. This is also the day that we will change reading scheme books if your child has one of these. In our writing, we will start by working on our descriptive narrative skills by writing an exciting story. We will be learning how to punctuate speech correctly and how to add it to our stories to support the narrative. We will also be practising our persuasive writing by learning how to write a balanced argument.

### Homework

- It is important that your child practises their times tables at home, either on TT Rockstars or Purple Mash or even by writing them out or saying them out loud. By the end of Year 4, we need to be fluently recalling all our times tables facts and corresponding division facts all the way to  $12 \times 12$ . Practising them at home for 10 minutes each day will help make maths easier for your child. If



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your child does not know them and has not been practising them, they will be invited to attend maths club on a Wednesday lunchtime in order to practise them.

- Another essential skill to practise at home is reading, whether it is the book they bring home from school or one you have at home. Again, little and often is the best way to help your child.
- Remember to practise your spellings on EdShed each week. I will set a new word list with challenges and games each week and will be monitoring who is accessing this at home. 10 minutes 3 times a week is ideal to support your child's spelling knowledge.

### Messages

- Our P.E. sessions are still on Tuesday, please come to school wearing your outdoor P.E. kit. Earrings need to be removed, they cannot be covered with tape.
- Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school, it is important that they keep hydrated throughout the day.
- Remember that Wednesday is our music lesson day. If your child has taken a ukulele home to practise, they need to bring it in each Wednesday.
- If your child has a reading scheme book, please bring it in to school each day as we will read with them throughout the week. These will be changed on a Friday.