



Spring Term 2019

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter



Topic: USA Road Trip

We will take a trip across the USA finding out about the indigenous Native Americans once lived and how the pioneers arrived and the effects on the land and people. We shall look at how American food has been influenced by different factors and examine the different geographical landscapes of the many states.



PE: In the first half of the term Sam will help us further develop our gymnastic skills. During the second half term we will be playing football.

Reminders: Please could the children wear their PE kits to school on **Tuesdays for the first half term** and then back to **Thursdays in the second half term**. Swimming kit will be required each Wednesday, beginning 9th January.



Art and Design: We will use line to try to show expression in portrait drawing. After examining Native American geometric patterns, we will design our own. The USA landscape is so rich and varied, we have to paint it! We'd like to tell our stories using totem poles.

Weekly Events:

Spellings: Every Thursday there will be a spelling test, beginning Thursday 10th January. Spellings have already been given out at the end of last term. Please let me know if you need an extra copy

Reading Challenge: Children are asked to read at home at least 4 times a week to achieve the weekly reading challenge. For us to be sure that they have achieved the challenge, we ask that parents record their child's reading with any comments in the reading diary. Please ask your child questions about their reading to check their understanding.

Times Tables: The children will have speed tests on their times tables on most days but extra practice at home will ensure the facts are embedded. By the end of Year 4, the children need to be able to recall all the times tables facts from 2 to 12 x 12 quickly.

Homework: Each Thursday your child will receive homework tasks to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday. If he/she struggles with the work given or finds it not challenging enough, please let me know.

**NB Please be aware that there will be occasions when school events affect this*

History: We shall be finding out about the history of the pioneers and their journey to a new life. The lives of the Native Americans will also be investigated as we will look at how their lives were affected by the European pioneers.

Computing: We will create our own multi-media presentations, adding pictures, sounds and choose the text type, size and colour. Tuesday February 5th 2019 is 'Safer Internet Day' where we learn how to make positive choices for keeping ourselves and others safe online.

Science: Fossils and rocks will be our focus for this term. What is erosion? How do we recognise it and what causes it? How does this affect our landscape?



PHSE: We will look at how to keep our bodies and our minds healthy through discussions and role play.

RE: Our 'Gospel' topic, in the first half of the term, will help us to understand how Christians spread the 'good news' of Jesus's teachings. In the second half of the term we will investigate the events leading up to and beyond 'Good Friday'.



Geography:

Travelling across the 50 states, we shall explore some of their similarities and differences. Tornadoes, hurricanes and blizzards are some of the severe weather conditions a lot of Americans have to face. We will find out about their causes and effects.

