

Year 4 Learning Web

English Focus

This term, Year 4 has two focus texts to enrich our water-themed learning: *'This Morning I Met a Whale'* by Michael Morpurgo and *'Shackleton's Journey'* by William Grill. Reading and writing activities based on these books will include:

- A news report based on the unusual incident of the bottlenose whale spotted in the River Thames in 2006.
- Creating a picture book based on Ernest Shackleton's treacherous voyage to Antarctica.
- Writing gripping diary entries as a famous explorer.
- Drama opportunities based on the perilous Shackleton expedition.

We will end our term on a festive note by using our new sentence structures and rich vocabulary to recount the tale of *'The Snowman'* by Raymond Briggs from the perspective of both the boy and the snowman.

Autumn 2 2018 Antarctica

STEM (including Computing and Science) and Health and Wellbeing

In Science, we will be focusing on changes of state and the water cycle. As part of this, we will be carrying out a number of scientific investigations: making predictions, asking questions, recording results and furthering our lines of enquiry. Exciting STEM activities will focus on engineering skills, including building effective water transportation and choosing which material to line our very own canals!

Maths Focus

Key Areas of Learning:

- **Number:** Multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 (speed of recall)
- **Mental multiplication** (including doubling) using partitioning.
- **Written methods of multiplication** (the grid method using partitioned numbers):
e.g. 253×6

x	200	50	3	
6	1200	300	18	= 1518

- **Measurement:** Perimeter and area
- **Geometry:** Grid co-ordinates in the first quadrant.
- **Problem solving:** Focused on all the above areas.

Creativity

- In **Art**, we will be experimenting with a range of media to create water-inspired artwork. We will be inspired by Monet's famous *Water Lilies* collection to create our own artwork in both 2D watercolour and 3D form. We will also be using wax resistance artwork to portray the movement of water, as well as using the pointillism technique to recreate an aspect of the George Seurat painting, *'Bathers at Asnières'*.
- **Computing:** Our focus this term will be on using technology in school. We will be practising skills, including copying, pasting and editing pictures and typing.
- In **Music**, we will be creating our own musical compositions using our learning theme to inspire soundscapes which portray the conditions experienced by explorers in the Antarctic.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Our geographical and historical learning will be focusing on the exploration of Antarctica. We will be using globes to locate the North and South Poles, discussing their similarities and differences. Looking at the physical geography of Antarctica, we will be discussing why exploration of this area was notoriously perilous. Looking back at the historical race to the South Pole, we will be inspired by the fascinating stories of those explorers who set off to be the first to reach it. This topic will encompass many exciting learning opportunities, including stories and photographs from someone who has first-hand experience of Antarctica. We will also be looking closer to home with a study of the role played by canals in the industrial growth of Birmingham. We will even be creating our own canal in a challenging STEM activity.
- In **RE**, we will be learning about Sikhism and in particular the importance of Guru Gobind Singh. We will also be performing the prisoner release day story.
- **PE - 4T:** Swimming lessons start Tuesday 20th November. Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit in school on Tuesdays.
- **PE - 4P:** Last swimming lesson on Tuesday 13th November. 4P will be doing dodgeball in PE lessons. Please ensure that PE kits are kept in school at all times.

Ways you can help at home...

- Read little and often each day. We will be reading for meaning and understanding. Ask lots of questions about the text and encourage the children to form opinions. Please sign reading records showing your child's reading because we like to positively acknowledge readers in class.
- In Year 4, it is very important that we know all of our times tables up to 12x12 and the corresponding division facts. Please support your child in practising these whenever possible.
- Help your child to tell the time by asking them to read an analogue clock at various intervals throughout the day.
- Encourage your child to complete their homework and hand it in on time.