



# Spring 1 Newsletter

## Year 4



### Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school following the Christmas holiday. Thank you so much for your best wishes and gifts, they were much appreciated. I hope you had a wonderful time with your families and friends.

### What we will be learning this term

In **Maths** we will continue multiplication and division, followed by measurement (area) and we will begin to learn more about fractions.

In **English** the children will be studying the text 'Varmints' by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. They will be exploring settings and themes, writing a retelling of the story from the main character's point of view and sharing their thoughts and opinions about the story. We will then link the story to the life-cycle of growing plants.

In this half of the term we are going to learn about poetry and celebrate as part of the whole school **poetry festival**. Please look out for further information over the coming weeks in the school's weekly newsletter.

In **R.E.**, our topic is: '*What does it mean to be a Muslim?*' Children will learn about similarities and differences of worship and ideas about God between Islam and other faiths.

**P.E. lessons are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

If you wish to speak with me, please email me via the school office or send a note with your child. Please be aware that the morning is an extremely busy time and unfortunately I will not have time to speak with you.

Yours Sincerely,

*Mrs Chadwick*

### Home learning

To support your child's learning and progress in **Maths**, please practise times tables to 12 x 12, as well as mental addition and subtraction.

To support your child's learning and progress in **English**, encourage your child to read aloud every day. Discuss what is happening in the text and why events are happening. Talk about the main ideas in a paragraph or chapter, to encourage the development of their summarisation skills.

In our **Cornerstones Topic ('Playlist')** children will be:

- appreciating and understanding a wide range of high quality live and recorded music
- improvising and composing music
- playing and performing
- identifying how sounds are made
- finding patterns between pitch and sound
- writing a biography of a well-known composer
- creating an album cover

Here are some ideas for further **home learning activities**:

- **Talk to** parents and grandparents about music and dance trends that were popular when they were young. Bring in findings to share on a class display.
- **Listen out** for classical music used on TV. Can you spot any tunes you know?
- **Learn a song by heart** or play a piece of music on an instrument. Practise and see if you can do it without making any mistakes!
- Think up a funny name for a new band! **Design a logo** for the band.
- **Write a fan letter** to a musical hero, explaining what you like about their music.
- **Write the song lyrics** of a new song for your favourite band.
- **Watch a beatbox performer** online. How do they do that?
- Have a **sponsored silence** and send the money raised to your favourite charity. For how long do your grown-ups think you can keep quiet?