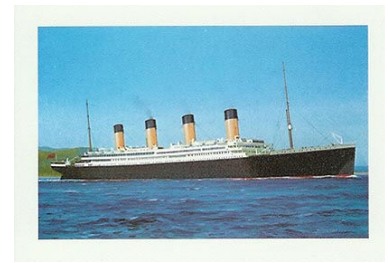




## Year 4 Spring Newsletter



Welcome back to an action packed term! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas. As we start 2011 we are excited about embarking on the new topic 'Ship Ahoy!'

Our overall enquiry is 'What do ships reveal about Britain?' This will develop children's understanding of Britain as an island and its trading links with places around the world. The children will develop their sense of chronology through exploring how ships have changed over time. A study of the Titanic will enable children to identify and describe reasons for a historical event.

### Mathematics

The children will be learning informal written methods for multiplying, such as partitioning. Eg.  $4 \times 36$  can be worked out by splitting the tens and units and calculating  $4 \times 30$  and adding  $4 \times 6$ . We are focussing on mental strategies for adding 2 or 3 digit numbers, such as partitioning or counting on from the smaller number. The children will be comparing and ordering fractions. We will also be measuring mass and calculating area and also recognising nets of 3-D shapes. The children will also focus on angles and bar charts. We are continuing to develop recall of multiplication tables. Any extra practice you can do at home would be much appreciated.

### Literacy

We are linking much of the work in literacy to our 'Ship Ahoy!' topic through studying stories from other cultures and information texts. They will also be thinking about the audience they are writing for and how to adapt their writing appropriately. The children will continue to practise key spelling patterns, grammatical rules and correct sentence punctuation. Please encourage your child to use capital letters and full stops correctly in any writing they do at home. This term all children will start to use pen for their work and should be joining their handwriting as neatly as possible. We will continue to provide opportunities for the children to write independently as much as possible.

### Science

We will be focusing on carrying out 'fair' tests in Science by identifying the variable to be measured and controlling other variables. We will be developing this skill through exploring the movement both of cars down ramps and ships through water!

The concept of friction will be introduced and investigated. We will also be learning about how muscles enable movement.

### **ICT**

ICT will be used within the curriculum as the children carry out research through selected websites. For example we intend for the children to find out about how different foods reach Britain. The children will extend their skills in using a paint program to create their own images to add to a presentation.

### **Foundation subjects**

Our RE topic is on Hinduism. Our DT topic will involve designing a money container using a variety of materials. In PSHE we will be 'Going for Goals'. Gymnastics is our focus for PE sessions this term.

### **Other adults working in the classroom**

Mrs Keller and Miss Moulton are responsible for releasing the class teachers for their Planning, Preparation and Assessment time each week Mrs Dann will be supporting groups of children in the classroom

### **Useful reminders**

- PE kit is required on Wednesday and Thursday for both classes. Please ensure indoor and outdoor kit is available on both days
- Please ensure that your child has school PE shorts for indoor PE as they will be unable to use the apparatus otherwise.

We hope you find this information useful in supporting your child's learning. Please encourage your child to research topic areas at home to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Best wishes and Happy New Year!

*Mrs Farr and Mrs Thompson*