

# KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2021



### YEAR 5

February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of a new term. In light of the current government guidance, the majority of children will be learning from home using Google Classrooms: this learning will mirror the learning that takes place in school.

#### **Our Topic**

##### *Term 4: Lifecycles*

This will involve learning about living things and their habitats. By the end of the term, your child should be able to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

We will also be looking at animals, including humans, to be able to describe the changes as they develop from birth to old age. Every year, this is a great subject that children question intensely and gain a lot of information from.

As part of this term's topic, Year 5 will be looking at the human life cycle. During these lessons, scientific terminology of reproductive organs will be used. The main purpose of these lessons is to illustrate the changes that occur in the body as humans move through their life cycle.

We will be sending home some sunflower seeds and peat / soil with some planting instructions. Could you help your child to grow the plants and keep a growth journal about its height and appearance? If your child would then like to create a still life piece of art based on the grown plant that would be fabulous. This could be done using pencils or paint.

#### **Maths and English**

In maths lessons, children will be learning about: fractions and percentages; how to interpret data from graph and time tables and also how to work with numbers with decimals.

In order to support your child, you could get them to help you look up train or bus times for a journey. If you are planning a family summer holiday or a short break, perhaps your child could help you cost the trip.

As always, it would really help your child if they were super-confident with their times tables and associated division facts. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term, your child needs to be able to rapidly recall times tables (up to 12x) and then calculate related facts concerning multiples of 10, 100 and 1000 of these numbers. For example, if  $6 \times 8 = 48$  then they should work out that  $60 \times 80 = 4800$ .

In English, we will be learning about how to use embedded clauses and different verb tenses, and apply this knowledge to writing reports, persuasive arguments and engaging scene descriptions.

In order to support your child, you might encourage them to read more and question them on the books they are reading. Please encourage your child to read at home every day for at least 15 minutes.

We will be using **Collins Big Cat ebooks** and aim to update the book choices regularly. Login details have been sent home for this.

The spellings your child will be learning this term can be accessed through our school website; it would be really useful if you helped your child to learn these spellings.

#### **PE**

Our PE days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. During winter months, a sweatshirt or an additional t-shirt is useful in the colder weather.

For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt and plimsolls. Every item

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needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day.

#### Homework

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and will support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities as well as reading and some spelling investigations. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible. We are happy to help.

Yours Sincerely

*Miss Sturt, Miss Cairns and Mr Greaves*

Year 5 Class Teachers

#### Important Dates

04.03.21 – World Book Day

08.03.21 – School to reopen to all pupils

01.04.21 – Last day of term 4

19.04.21 – First day of term 5

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

*Key things that parents can do to support their child this term related to things they will be learning about:*

- Take a walk with your child and identify animals (large and small) so you can discuss habitats and lifecycles with them. Can you encourage your child to produce some incredible art work depicting what they saw?
- If there is a news report about wildlife, motivate your child to watch, listen and learn.
- Help your child to grow the sunflower (which will be provided during this term) and record details about its growth and appearance. The children could use a table, a line graph, or simply write a few bullet points. The choice is theirs.
- Could you help your child to build a "Bug Hotel" – there are some instructions attached but feel free to amend and make this unique!

#### Sowing sunflower seeds

1. Put some damp soil in a plastic cup so it comes up almost to the top. ...
2. Drop a **sunflower seed** into the hole. ...
3. Put the cup on a sunny windowsill. ...
4. Your plant should pop up through the soil after about 1 or 2 weeks. ...
5. When your plants grow too big for the cups, plant them in bigger flowerpots.





**YEAR 5**



## Make Your Own Minibeast Hotel



### Outdoor Activity

#### You will need:

A suitable container or area in your outdoor area, preferably wooden

Compost

Fertile soil

Pieces of wood (various sizes)

Different sized/shaped stones

Bricks

Old roof tiles

Clay drainage tubes

Fir cones

Dry leaves

Bark

Straw, hay

Dead wood/sticks

Plants that will attract insects

#### Method

1. Choose either an area in your outdoor area or a wooden container and place it on the ground.
2. If the container hasn't already got holes in, make some holes in the bottom. That will create drainage and let minibeasts crawl in.
3. Fill the container with compost and fertile soil.
4. Use your resources to build various places for minibeasts to live.
5. Woodlice and beetles will like wood/sticks and if stacked, the minibeasts can crawl through them.
6. Plants will attract the crawling bugs like caterpillars, snails and spiders.
7. Butterflies and bees will like nectar-rich flowering plants.
8. It's up to you how much you put in your bug hotel.
9. Observe the hotel over time and see which minibeasts it attracts.
10. Can you find out which areas each kind of minibeast like best?

