

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the next five weeks those of us in Year 4 will be following a unit of work on a theme which focuses on 'Explorers and Adventurers'. This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This new curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn

- Personal development - the characteristics which will help children become responsible, independent learners
- International understanding - which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects. During this unit we will be focusing on history, geography, art, music and ICT.

In history we'll be finding out about

- Explorers and adventurers from the past
- Different views about explorations
- An ancient Egyptian journey of exploration
- How we know about explorations

In geography we'll be finding out about

- How to locate routes and places on maps
- How to compare old and recent maps
- How to use different projections

In art we'll be finding out about

- The work of explorer Margaret Mee
- The work of Georgia O'Keefe
- The comic-strip work of Roy Lichtenstein

In music we'll be finding out about

- The music used for films about space adventure
- How to improvise our own space adventure music

We'll also be finding out how to use ICT to research, organise and record our work, and how exploration can be an international venture. All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and by asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you. We already know the interest you take in your child's work.

If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you if you can. Share any stories you know about famous explorers with your child. Whenever a country is mentioned, in conversation, on television, etc., look it up in an atlas with your child. Play 'treasure hunt' with your child - they could hide something and give you clues on how to find it! If your child has some work to research, please help them without actually doing the work!

If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it your enthusiasm and interest is most important. By the end of the unit, we intend that your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We want them to have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments about the work your child has done, please get in touch.

Best Wishes
J Adams, J Greenhouse and J Price
Yr 4 Teachers

