



# Year Four Newsletter – October 2018

## Settling in to Year 4

When we moved into year 4, we had to get to know our new teachers and our teachers had to learn all of our names. So we sat in a circle and talked to each other about what we wanted to achieve in Year 4. We used our ideas to create a book called 'The Power of yet...' We also played some fun games like pass the clap or whisper, and name games to help Miss Kenshole and Mrs Atkins to learn all of our names. We have enjoyed being back at school with our friends, playing outside at break times and working in groups during lessons. We have enjoyed our learning this half term and everyone has tried hard to improve on the learning dispositions of thinking hard, working hard and trying new things.

## Topic – What does the River Tees mean to Our Darling Town?

This half term, we have been learning about rivers and their purpose. On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, year 4 went on an extraordinary visit to Tees Cottage Pumping Station. Everyone got to take part in three different activities including sampling at the river, a tour around the building and a science experiment where we tried to filter dirty water. We found out that in Victorian times people in Darlington used to drink the water from the river but they were getting ill as it was so dirty. As a result, they built the pumping station to clean the water before it went to the wells. We also visited Teesmouth to find out more about the stages of a river and its journey because the river project is great for learning. In DT we have been learning how to make pop-up books. We learnt how to make information pop up in different ways so that we could show case everything we had learnt about rivers and river safety.



## Science

When we did science we learnt about liquids, solids and gases. We also looked at the water cycle and how it is linked together. For example vapour getting carried by gas particles up to the clouds to make rain. This is our longitudinal study so we will be working on this topic throughout Year 4.

## English

In English we started the half term reading 'River Story'. It is a book about the journey of a river from source to sea but it is written in a poetic style. I think that River Story is a non-fiction book because it shows you all of the facts about a river and it tells you where the source of a river is and where the mouth of the river is. It could also be a fiction book because it's a bit like a poem that is about a river moving onto a city and then it goes to the sea. We also read 'Fox'. A story about friendship, jealousy and loneliness. We had to write a different ending to the story. I think that it was a bit hard to write a different ending to the story because it was difficult to think about what Magpie would do and write in the style of the author.

## Maths

When we first started maths in year 4, our first lesson in maths was Roman numerals. We learnt that I = 1 V = 5 X = 10 XX = 20 L = 50 C = 100 D = 500 M = 1000. We have been using Roman Numerals throughout the half term in our maths work. As well as this we have been learning about place value in four-digit numbers, and using this when ordering and rounding them. We have also practiced adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers using a column method and we have learnt how to exchange using our knowledge of place value. One of our main aims in Maths is to make sure we get on to section C so that we can practice applying our skills to solve problems.



## Sport

This half term we have been learning to play tag rugby. We learnt some skills then played in some matches. We have been doing the Daily Mile every afternoon around the school grounds. Children from classes 7 and 8 took part in a Darlington schools cross country event. We then had a member of Year 4 representing our school at the Tees Valley finals. During indoor PE we learnt how to balance and counter balance in gymnastics. We put a few routines together and performed them to the class. This half term we were also lucky to do a judo taster session.