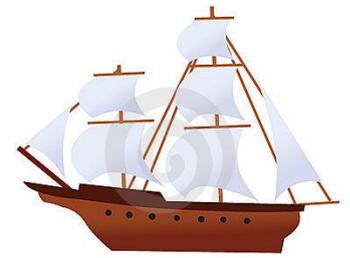




## Class 4 letter – Spring Term 2020

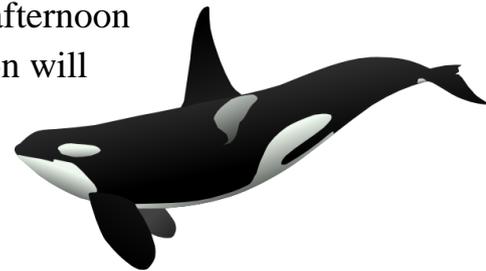


dreamstime.com

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a very happy Christmas and New Year and the children are ready to embrace all the challenges 2020 has to offer. As we begin the Spring Term, I want them to set high targets and expectations for themselves. I want to ensure that they each make the maximum progress possible and really develop the desire to ‘do your best’ in every single lesson. They will need to listen carefully, work conscientiously and maintain concentration so that they can produce their best work and feel proud of their achievements.

Our English, History and Geography lessons will all focus around the topic ‘At Sea’. We will be writing stories about the sea and lighthouses, (using ‘The Storm Whale in Winter.’ as our stimulus) before moving on to learning about the ‘Mary Celeste’, a boat found abandoned and drifting off the coast of The Azores on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1872. We will learn the poem ‘Sea Fever’ by John Masefield off by heart as well as writing one of our own. We will use our historical knowledge of the ship to produce some creative writing pieces before finding out about the Azores and Gibraltar – where the ship was taken, as part of our geography work. Linking back to our text, we will research and write a report about whales (linking to Science) before considering whether whaling by Iceland, Norway and Japan should be banned as a piece of persuasive writing. We will then present our work during a fun and interactive afternoon on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm. On Mondays, Mrs Dixon will continue to teach and develop comprehensions skills through texts about Grace Darling and Scott of the Antarctic.



In Science, as well as considering classification of living things, we will look at electricity and build circuits for lighthouses. In Art, we will be exploring seascapes, lighthouses, ships and whales! All our curriculum subjects link to our topic, allowing us to really immerse ourselves in this exciting topic.

Homework will continue to be sent home on a Friday, to be handed in the following Thursday. Children are expected to read to an adult at least three times a week, in addition to any reading they do in school. It is a well-known fact that regularly reading quality stories and subsequent ‘book talk’ has a very positive effect in developing writing skills as well as improving reading and

comprehension skills. These will be especially important next term as Year 6 approach their SATs in May.



‘Golden Tickets’ will be given out on a Monday when reading diaries are checked and children will have the opportunity to win a book at the end of term in the prize draw. Congratulations to Georgia Davis who won, ‘Hunting Gumnor’ by Stephen Potts.

In Mathematics, Mrs Dixon will continue to focus on geometry, measurement and statistics on a Wednesday morning, throughout the rest of the week we will continue to develop our reasoning skills, focusing in particular on fractions and decimals. Instant recall of times tables will greatly support children’s maths work. There are lots of fun apps and games available online to support and encourage children and make learning fun. Please see the attached sheet for details.



It is important that school and home work together as a partnership. I will be available to discuss any issues or concerns briefly with parents before school from 8:45am or on a Tuesday afternoon until 4pm. Mrs Dixon will be available Wednesdays from 8.45am. Should you require a longer discussion please contact the school office and make an appointment.

Best wishes for a great term,

*Mrs Roberts*