

To Our Year 4 children and families,

Hello from Team 4! We hope you are all feeling well and staying safe at home. We hope you managed to have a good Easter break and enjoyed family time. This is definitely the strangest start to a Summer Term we have ever prepared for!

We are writing to introduce our new home learning resources to you. We are aiming to provide more structure to the learning, however, every family home is different and this is intended to be used as guidance. There is no requirement to complete and follow everything, as a family you should do what best suits you and your current home situation.

Obviously, this is uncharted territory for all of us so we hope what we have uploaded is useful. Please let us know any feedback on what works well or other suggestions and we will try our very best to put it into action to best support our children. Please email any feedback for any of the teachers to the school office address email and then it will be forwarded onto us. office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk.

Our New Topic is: **Road Trip USA**



English:

Spelling

We have uploaded a Spelling PDF which the children can use each week. Perhaps you could choose 10 words together that you will focus on for a week and then use the activities to practise these. We have included a recap of high frequency KS1 words as sometimes errors can still be made with these. Please practise these words for 10-15 minutes of the 45 minute English lesson.

Writing

The children are starting to plan and prepare to write a persuasive leaflet to visit one of the USA states. When we teach writing at school, we use the first week to really immerse the children into the new topic and explore what this type of writing can look like. Our children have written persuasively before so this is not a brand new concept to them. Showing the children food leaflets and advertisements for attractions from a range of companies and adverts can help the children understand the layout and language of a leaflet. These can be found in supermarkets and through your post.

This week, the children will concentrate on exploring what makes writing persuasive and beginning to collect ideas for when they come to write a piece of

their own next week. The PDF should guide you through the 5 sessions we have planned.

Some key concepts for the children to grasp this week are:

-Persuasive writing is used to convince someone to agree with you or follow your instruction.

-Persuasion is everywhere! If you look closely, we are being given lots of messages - often without really realising it for ourselves.

-Persuasion is all about choosing the right pieces of information to make people agree with you. When they are planning in the final session, they must make sure that it is not just 'facts'. It needs to be information that they can twist and exaggerate to make it seem more appealing.

Reading

Unfortunately, we were interrupted before we finished Demon Dentist! We have made the decision to continue using it as our text for the next few weeks.

When we teach reading, we focus on two main strands.

Fluency

This is their confidence and ability to read a text out loud/ or in their head independently. We would remind children to use varied expressions in tone, volume and intonation to really bring the story alive for themselves. Please take some time each day to listen to your child read. This will help with their fluency as it is an opportunity to read aloud and to an audience.

Comprehension

This is their understanding of a text. On the PDFs, you will see VIPERS. These are some of the staple reading skills which children need to develop. Our lessons usually focus on one of these six areas.

V - Vocabulary. Exploring how words are chosen and used for effect and meaning

I- Inference. Exploring the meaning behind a text

P - Prediction - Making predictions based on the text and evidence they have

E - Explanation - Explaining emotions, events, sequence and character choices.

R - Retrieval - Collecting information stated in the text

S - Summary - Being able to succinctly conclude **the main** events or information read

This week, the children will concentrate on reading Demon Dentist by David Walliams. There are copies of the text they will need built into the PDFs but we know that a lot of the children already have copies of these at home too. Lessons 1-4 work on VIPERS skills and then Lesson 5 is Fluency Friday where you can all

work on performing poetry for each other. We have done this before at school and the children were incredibly creative - you are in for a treat!

Maths

Times Table and Mental Arithmetic

We are sure you have heard **a lot** about Times Table Rockstars (aka TT Rockstars) over the last two terms! It has certainly got very competitive. The children are doing really well and we have seen huge improvements in their accuracy of their times tables recall. Spending 15 minutes of the 45 minute maths lesson on TT Rockstars will help them improve further. The children are the real whizzes at TT Rockstars and will be able to give you a very in depth tour of all the features! You can track your child's progress with TTrockstars by asking them to play Soundcheck once a week and seeing how much they score out of a possible 25.

Place Value

This week, we would like the children to work through the sessions to recap this crucial area of understanding. It is recognition of the concept that a digit's value depends on its placement within a number. For example, a digit 4 does not always have the value of 4. If that number is in the hundreds column, the digit then has the value of 400.

The sessions build on securing their fluency with the concept first before then moving them onto problem solving and reasoning problems where they must use that knowledge in different contexts/ problems. If the fluency (basic understanding of concept) is not secure, they will struggle to solve the problems and reasoning as these require a strong, secure understanding. They must work on getting that fluency secure and so repetition of similar questions is a good idea if you feel they are struggling.

Topic - Afternoon Sessions

The sessions for the week can be completed in any order - choose whichever you fancy for each day! The PDF documents will guide you through each session. Obviously, there is lots more scope to explore these beyond the materials we have supplied but have tried to include the basics for you. Don't forget to be using Mr. Spencer's PE videos to keep you active too!

1. PSHE - Exploring the USA flag symbolism and creating your own Class Flag
2. Art - Exploring the history of Totem Poles
3. Geography - Factfiles of the USA
4. History - Exploring the Iroquis Tribe
5. Now for something different - Space Tourism!

Please, please share any work with us that you can. We would love to see how you are getting on and can of course help and give feedback on it too. Either share with us on the Google Drive or email documents, photos etc to the school office address (office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk) and they will reach us.

Here's a quick reminder of how to share with us:

Log into Google using your school address: e.g. 18hduncan@meon-jun.portsmouth.sch.uk and then use the password 'mjs18' followed by the child's secret word.

Click on the Drive icon and create a new doc/ slide etc.
Once the document is open, give it a title and then it will be ready to share.

Click the Blue Share Rectangle in the top right corner and then type in your teacher's name. You should see our Google Address come up. Make sure you get the right teacher!

Then click 'DONE'. We will be notified you have shared something and can then have a look and share feedback with you.

We know this is a particularly challenging time for our families; we want you to know that we are always here to support you, not just with home learning. If you need any additional advice or guidance, please contact the school office email (office@meonjuniorschool.org.uk) or you can contact our pastoral team (Shellie Knight and Sarah Horne) directly by text to 07827885575 (Monday to Friday 10-3pm). We will try our best to get back to you as soon as we can.

As always, please take care of yourselves and each other.

From All of us in Team 4

