

Thursday 22nd September 2022



## Year 4 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

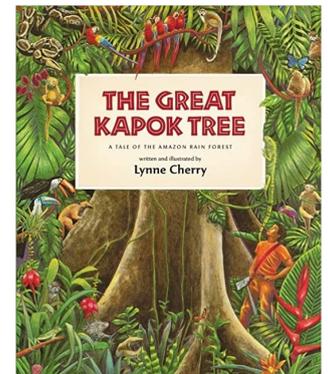
Welcome back to a new school year at Meridian. I hope that you have all had a restful break over the summer. It has been amazing to welcome all the children into Year 4, and I'm very impressed by how brilliantly they have settled back in after the holidays.

They are already demonstrating fantastic behaviour for learning in the classroom, by showing lots of focus and enthusiasm for their work. What a great start! We're looking forward to the year ahead: Ellie, Bernie, Joanna, and I are all excited to support your children on their continuing learning journey. If we haven't had a chance to chat yet, I will hopefully see you at the Year 4 'Meet the Teacher' today.

### Curriculum:

To start the Autumn term, we have been focussing on our mini topic '**We are Meridian**'. Within this, we have been discussing everything that makes Meridian special whilst also reacquainting ourselves with the school values and thinking about how we can use our Meridian Learning Muscles. We have also been learning about the Prime Meridian Line and what it means for time around the world!

We will move on to a whole school Geography topic soon - '**Where in the World are We?**'. Our focus will be on South America and the Amazon rainforest. We will learn about the different features of the rainforest and its unique climate. In our English lessons, our writing will be based around *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynn Cherry - a wonderful book that will really bring the topic to life!



In Year 4 Maths, times tables are a key learning goal. The children are expected to know all their times tables (up to 12x) by the end of the year, as they are building blocks for so many other mathematical calculations. We will be doing lots of work within school to help secure this knowledge; however, you can help too at home by encouraging your child to chant their time tables whenever you can: on the bus, walking to school, before bed - it all helps!

### **Class and staffing arrangements:**

I, Laura, am very pleased to join Meridian as Year 4's class teacher. Ellie will support children's learning four days a week and Bernie every Wednesday. Familiar face Joanna will be teaching the class every Tuesday!

### Supporting learning at home

Home learning will be posted on Google Classroom every Friday and will be linked to work we have been doing during the week. It will consist of an English or Maths task and a spelling pattern. Although your child should be able to do it on their own, it is beneficial if they can talk about it and

ask questions at home too. Home learning should be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. The children's weekly spelling quiz will take place on a Friday. If you do not have access to a home computer (e.g. laptop, PC, iPad), please let one of us know so that we can provide your child with a paper copy of the home learning.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day, either with an adult or independently, and do let us know if you require a book recommendation for your child - a good book is the key to a child's enjoyment of reading! Children are encouraged to take two books home to read each week: one levelled (with a coloured book band) and one 'free choice' from our class book corner. Children can change their books from the book corner as often as they like - they do not need to check with an adult, so you can encourage them to do this independently! They will be supported by us to change their levelled book on the same day that they have their Guided Reading session with a teacher - please make sure your child brings their reading diary to school on this day. Children are encouraged to use their reading diaries at home to record their thoughts about the books they have read, and parents are welcome to make comments in these too.

### **Routines**

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child comes to school every day and on time. Arriving in the playground at 8:45am ensures that all children are in class by 8:50am and allows a smooth start to the day with no missed learning opportunities. Before coming into class in the morning, children are washing their hands, and this continues at regular intervals throughout the school day. We also appreciate your support in developing independence in your child by ensuring that they bring their labelled water bottle to school and are suitably dressed for all weather conditions. We will continue to bring the children down to the playground at the end of each day and meet parents/carers there at 3:20pm. If someone different is collecting your child, please let the school office know as early in the day as possible.

This term, Year 4 will have **swimming** on **Mondays** and their **outdoor PE** lesson on a **Thursday**. The children will need to bring their swimming kit on Monday and get changed at the swim centre. They will also need to change into a full PE kit for their PE lesson on Thursday. This includes shorts or leggings, a t-shirt, a sweatshirt for cold weather and appropriate footwear for outdoor activities. Children's PE kits can be left in school for the half term to reduce the risk of forgotten kits.

### **Communication**

Please check our weekly whole school newsletter for important information throughout the year and updates on what we have been learning. These will be emailed to parents/carers and are also available on the school website. If you would like a quick chat with me about any questions you may have, I am often available to speak to you on the playground after school; if not, you can speak to Jo or Jane or alternatively, please call the School Office and I will call you as soon as I can.

Thank you for your continued support. I am really looking forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning this year!

Best wishes,

Laura and the Year 4 team