

## Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?

Welcome back and welcome to Merlin Class! I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and a really lovely and relaxing break and are now raring to learn. Our topic for this half term is one of my favourites, it is called 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?' We will be learning about animals, their habitats, the problems that some of these animals are facing and what we can do to help. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about your child or if you simply just want to introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you and teaching your children throughout what I hope to be a much more 'normal' year compared to the last one!

Harry Harms



### English

This half term in English, we will be focussing on non-chronological reports, using *The Big Book of Beasts* by Yuval Zommer and my favourite book, *Wild Animals of the South/North* by Dieter Braun to help us understand the structure of a non-chronological report and also develop our language. Then we will be writing our own reports on some of the animals we learn about.



### Maths

In Maths we will be learning -

- \* To work with 4-digit numbers; identifying them, understanding them, ordering, comparing and estimating them
- \* To round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000
- \* To count backwards from 0 to include negative numbers
- \* To use formal methods of addition and subtraction

Any practice you can do with your child at home would be useful and will probably mean they make greater progress in school.

### Science

In science we will be learning about 'Living things and their habitats'. We will be learning about how to classify living things and what threats some living things face. Here are some websites to have a look at

<http://resources.woodland.s.kent.sch.uk/revision/Science/living/habitats.html>

<http://resources.woodland.s.kent.sch.uk/revision/Science/living/keys.html>

### HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

#### ☺ In Maths

- By practicing times tables with your child as often as possible. **By the end of the year they need to know the multiplication and division facts up to 12x12** (5 minutes practise each day will make a huge difference. *Minute Games, TTRS and Timestables Pingpong* are fabulous ways to practice!).

#### ☺ In English

- Look at non-fiction books. There are several other books in the series we are studying such as *The Big Book of Birds* or *The Big Book of the Blue* both by Yuval Zommer.
- *Watching any animal documentaries to build subject knowledge, such as Deadly 60 or any of David Attenborough's brilliant programmes..*
- By encouraging your child to read **every day**.
- Discuss what your child has read with them - A support bookmark will be sent home that has a range of questions that   can ask your child to support their reading comprehension.

### Geography

We will be looking at the **climate zones** around the world as well as looking at some of the animals and plants that live there.

### Homework

This will be set to run over the 8 weeks of half term and will be in a menu style format. More information can be found on the homework menu itself.

### A note on PE kits

PE is going to be outdoors this half term. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school **at all times**, including suitable footwear that it is clearly labelled.