



*Ethical, Equity, Empathy, Excellence, Evolution, Endurance*

*The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy,  
serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco.  
It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.*

Tuesday 16th January 2024

## Spring Term - Dorles

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

### **Welcome back to Dorles**

It's been lovely to welcome everyone back, reinvigorated after a good break over Christmas. To keep things fresh and fun, we've already introduced a few new elements to our timetable, such as a free choice writing afternoon, a weekly 'Big Debate' based on *The Week Junior* magazine, and a 'chatty reading' session - a chance to recommend, share and discuss texts together, in addition to our existing independent reading time. We have lots more to look forward to as the weeks go by, including for some the excitement of performing in this year's school show, *Bugsy Malone*.

Please see below some details about what promises to be a stimulating new term. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

### **Maths**

Our new topics for this term are multiplication and division, length and perimeter, fractions, and finally decimals. It is really important this year that children secure their knowledge of all the times tables up to 12, so we have a daily times tables session for those working towards this goal. Throughout the term we will also be consolidating material from Year 3 and the first term of Year 4, especially mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction. Each week there is an extra maths challenge on offer too, providing an opportunity to investigate deeper, more open-ended puzzles.

### **English**

Our first text this term is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, which will inspire a range of writing, including poetry, diary entries, advice letters and newspaper reports. We revise grammar and punctuation skills and have a separate spelling session each day, in which we tackle both new and previously learned spelling rules and patterns, as well as tricky exception words.



The Five Islands Academy website can be accessed via: [www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk](http://www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk)

Our current class novel is *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf. In addition, children have the opportunity to read independently each day Monday to Thursday, and we incorporate into the week a range of opportunities to discuss texts formally as a class and more informally and socially in peer groups.

Reading at home continues to be vital - thank you for all the time you put into this when things are so busy. Listening to your child read, encouraging their independent reading, reading to them (especially texts beyond their own reading level) and discussing stories, characters, vocabulary and reading tastes are all so helpful. If you would like a guide as to how long children should be aiming to read at home in Year 4, at least 15 minutes daily would be an ideal goal.

### **Geography and history**

Our first topic is 'Rivers and the Water Cycle', looking at water's journey from source to sea, the features of rivers and their human impact. After half term, we will turn to Roman Britain in history, learning about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on the lives of the Celts.

### **Science**

We have just finished our last few lessons from last term's Teeth and Eating. We're now moving onto learning about states of matter and their changes, such as evaporation, condensation and freezing. We will then have a fantastic time with electricity and circuits.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. I will continue to send any day-to-day class updates via Seesaw, and all essential information by ParentMail. Look out for information coming soon about our next Parents Evenings (just before half term) and the summer Year 4 trip.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Yours faithfully

Alison Nimmo, Lucy Greenlaw and Louise Parker  
Year 4 team