This term Year 4 are reading The Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson.

Orphan Maia is thrilled to learn she is to live with relatives in South America. She cannot wait to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the Amazon and is particularly looking forward to meeting her twin cousins. When Maia arrives, however, the family is far from welcoming and she is saddened to see that they have blocked out all evidence of the rainforest from their stuffy home. Maia turns to her strict yet kindly governess, Miss Minton, for company, and strikes up some unusual and rewarding friendships.

This exciting adventure story is a warm-hearted tale of friendship, our responsibility to those around us, and the importance of the natural world. It also links in with our Geography topic last term on the Americas so the children will be able to relate to the content and have an understanding of the setting already.

We will be using compound and complex sentences in our work, as well as fronted adverbials, persuasive language and writing in chronological order. We will be using this text to write our own persuasive non-fiction text and diary entries. It will be helpful for your child to have access to this book during the Christmas holidays so that they can start reading the story.

Some useful links for these skills can be found on Espresso and BBC Bitesize:
Present perfect tense compared to simple past tense:

Pronouns:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/z37xrwx

Fronted adverbials:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zp937p3

Complex Sentences:

Conjunctions/Compound sentences:
http://www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames/conjunction.html

During the first week back after the holidays, Year 4 will be taking a spelling test of all the year 4 spelling words. Please encourage your child to practise their spellings which have been sent home with them along with timetables activities.
Governess
guardian
emigrated
solemn
civilised
prejudices
capybaras
gruff
gaunt
budgerigar