



8th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everybody. Despite the constant rain, I hope that you managed to have an enjoyable and relaxing festive holiday filled with laughter and loved ones. Although the Spring term will be much shorter than Autumn, we have plenty of exciting topics to cover and I can't wait to get started again.

Our main questions this term will be *'What makes Earth angry?'* and *'How much change did the Roman Empire bring?'*

**Class novel:** The Queen of Darkness by Tony Bradman

**English:** This term, we will be using a wide range of media such as artefacts, film clips, non-fiction texts and short narratives to inspire us to produce a non-fiction piece focused around the Romans and a narrative based upon Queen Boudicca.

**Maths:** Over the spring term, we will cover many different topics in maths. We will continue learning about multiplication and division before moving on to length and perimeter, fractions, decimals (Year 4) and capacity (Year 3). We will also continue to recite our times tables everyday. Year 3 will focus on the 4s, 8s and 6s whilst Year 4 will practise every times table.

**Science:** We are going to move onto the topic of 'animals including humans', with a particular focus on how the digestive system works; what teeth humans have and what they are used for; and food chains in different contexts.

**PE:** This term, the class will continue to have PE lessons with Mr Sambell. The children will learn how to create simple sequences of movement in gymnastics, as well as perfecting their bodily control. They will then move on to use gross motor skills to evade and outwit opponents in dodgeball. The class will also have weekly swimming lessons during which they will learn how to move safely and confidently when in water.

**RE:** When learning about Hinduism, we will answer the question *'Why is family an important part of Hindu life?'* We will look at how Hindu families interact and worship together. When learning about Christianity, we will answer the question *'What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?'*. We will look at examples from the Bible and learn about the real people that followed Jesus' teachings.

**Geography:** We have an exciting topic this term where we will learn about what makes Earth angry. We will focus on volcanic eruptions, learning about where they occur, how they affect life and what we humans do in response.

**History:** In history, we are going to answer the question *"How much change did the Roman Empire bring?"*. We will study how the Romans invaded Britain and the ideas that they brought with them. Furthermore, we will look at the lasting impact of the Romans on Britain

**French:** In our unit 'En Classe' we will learn the names of classroom objects, how to make polite requests and how to make adjectives agree with the noun that they describe. We will then move onto our favourite topic of food! We will learn the names of food items, how to express our likes and dislikes and also how to say if they are healthy or unhealthy. Both units of work will include a story and develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

**Art:** In art, we will be developing our core skills sketching and printing skills. We will learn about proportion, shading, contrast, composition and tone whilst creating mixed-media and printed pieces of art.

**Design Technology:** We are going to create electric posters. Each pupil will choose a topic that they would like to teach an audience about and then design and create a poster with an electrical component.

**Computing:** Our computing unit this term will focus on digital media. We will learn how to take and edit photos to suit an audience or to give a desired effect.

**Music:** We are going to focus on musical notation and percussion. We will develop our understanding of written notation, learning how to read and write some simple tunes. In addition, we will use rhythm to create short musical sequences.

### PE

PE will take place on Tuesday afternoons. Swimming lessons will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that children have their PE kit in school at all times and that they have their full swimming kit every Wednesday.

### Outdoor learning

We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

### Snacks

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

### Homework

**Daily reading** - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. Our suggested independent reads for this term are: *Window - Jeannie Baker*, *The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas - David Almond* and *Moondial - Helen Cresswell*.

We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes each day. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

**Weekly spellings** - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. Spellings for the whole term are available on the class page of the website. Please support your child in learning their five weekly spellings.

**Times tables** - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables and knowing related division facts e.g. 5 times 6 is 30, 30 divided by 5 is 6.

### **Comprehension and maths -**

On occasion, children may be asked to complete a comprehension or maths based activity to consolidate their learning. When these are set, they will be given to the children on a Monday and are to be returned, fully completed by Friday of the same week.

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.

Best wishes.

  
Mrs Cain