



Newsletter

Year 4

Class Teacher: Mrs Davies

Spring Term 2020

What we will be learning this term:

English: The key objectives for English are taken from the new National Curriculum. This term, we will be completing the following units:

Narrative: Across the Roman wall.

Non-Fiction: Roman diaries focusing on recount writing; persuasive writing linked to Italy.

Poetry: focusing on the topic of volcanoes.

Speaking and listening will be developed through role-play, drama, discussion and group work. Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation will be taught throughout all units.

Reading will focus on longer narratives and non-fiction texts linked to Romans. Children will read as a group, on a regular basis, and discuss aspects of the text. In addition to this, some children will read levelled reading books, on a regular basis, to help improve reading fluency. All children have the opportunity to visit our school library, on a weekly basis, to choose books to take home. I have been delighted with children's response to their holiday reading challenge. Children have come back enthused by different books and I hope that they will continue to enjoy selecting and sharing their chosen books. A reminder to keep signing their home reading record books so that children can build a bookmark of stickers. This term - in order to develop fluency and comprehension skills - children will bring home a fiction book to read each week and respond to questions.

Spellings: pupils will be following our spelling scheme which enables children to learn spelling patterns, helped by a variety of spelling strategies. Quite a lot of work will be completed in class but children will also bring home spellings every Thursday and be tested (usually) on a Tuesday.

Handwriting: children will be expected to write in the cursive handwriting style throughout the year. Regular practice in class will provide children with the opportunity to practise but additional practise can also be sent home if requested.

Mathematics: Objectives for this term taken from the new National Curriculum. Key strand will include: 'Multiplication and Division' and 'Fractions' and Measure (area and perimeter). Homework will be set online or in the form of a worksheet. Again, this will be set on a Thursday and should be completed/ handed in by the following Tuesday. Children have access to 'Rockstar Maths' which should be accessed regularly. Daily 10 will also be used to improve multiplication recall and speed.

Science: Children will complete work on the digestive system before moving on to study sound and electricity.

History: (1st Half Term) Children will continue to investigate the key question: 'Why did the Romans march through Durham?' as well as looking at aspects of daily life in Roman times. Children will continue to develop their sense of chronology. They will use a variety of sources to work out what life was like in Roman Britain and developing their understanding of the impact of the Romans on our lives today.

Geography: (2nd Half Term) Our unit this term is: "Why does Italy shake, rattle and roar?" The unit draws pupils into an investigation of the human and physical geography of Italy with a special focus on the region in Italy affected by Tectonic activity.

Art (1st Half Term): Children will be looking at sculpture in relation to Roman pottery.

DT (2nd Half Term): Children will undertake a DT task related to electricity.

Computing: This term a Durham University student will be coming in to teach the children computing skills using the Scratch program. Internet safety will be taught throughout the year as well as general IT skills.

PE: This term, children continue to have P.E. on a Thursday and Friday. Please ensure that children have trainers for these sessions. This half term, the focus is dance; in the second half term the children will develop racket skills in net and wall games.

RE: Children will be covering the following units: 'What do Christians believe about Jesus?' and, leading up to Easter, they will study the period of Lent.

French: Mrs Raine will come to school to teach the children French on a Thursday afternoon.

Music: Mrs.Curry will teach music this year, also on a Thursday afternoon.

PSHE: This term we will focus on well-being.

How you can help at home/Extra Information:

Please could you encourage your child to read regularly. If you hear your child read aloud, please could you sign their reading record book, adding a comment if you wish. If your child is reading chapter books and prefers to read independently, please could you sign and date their record book: again, feel free to add any comments. House points and bookmark stickers will be given to the children for their reading efforts each time a record book is returned.

We are working hard to improve recall of multiplication tables this term. As identified above, children have access to Rockstar maths but an equally useful site, which enables children to focus on specific tables and speed, is 'Daily 10'

Useful Websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum> (National Curriculum)

<http://www.ictgames.com/> (Maths)

<http://www.wldps.com/gordons/> (Maths)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/> (English, maths and science)

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/> (All subjects)

Thank you for your continued help and support with your child's learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Date: 9th January 2020