



Spring 2 Half Term Information for Parents Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, we hope you have had a relaxing half term break! We look forward to beginning our new topic for this half term which will be 'When in Rome'. This information sheet tells you all about this topic and how it will stretch across the curriculum, across a range of the children's lessons. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Spring 2 – 'When in Rome...'

Cross curricular links:

English: Our English lessons this term will be rooted in our 'When in Rome' topic and will allow the children to write in a range of different styles. Children will explore the role of a Roman army soldier, considering why this may have been a tempting position and will explore a range of persuasive recruitment posters. They will then produce their own poster, using a range of persuasive techniques. The children's creative writing will be based around the text 'Escape to Pompeii' and a talk 4 writing approach will scaffold the children to write their own recounts in the form of a diary entry. We will read the Roman myth 'Romulus and Remus' and the children will use this story as a scaffold to innovate and create their own version. With a link to our Music curriculum, children will explore the use of rhythm in poetry, particularly poetry to perform and will write and perform their own Roman army chants. Towards the end of our topic, having explored the expansion of the Roman Empire and the uprising of the Celts, children will write a character description the Celtic warrior Boudicca. This will be supported by the use of role play and 'hot-seating', developing children's speaking and listening skills. Children will continue to develop the quality and complexity of their writing through the application of new grammar, punctuation and spelling which will be integrated into Literacy lessons.

History: During this topic, children will learn about the impact the Roman Empire had on life in Britain. They will learn about the spread of the Roman Empire, the invasion of Britain and the eventual conquest. The children will also look in detail at some aspects of the Romanisation of Britain, such as the building of Roman roads and bath houses. In addition to this they will have the opportunity to learn about the British resistance of Boudicca and will act in role to look at the events of Boudicca's rebellion from different perspectives. The children will also investigate Hadrian's Wall, examining how, where and why it was built. They will learn about the different features of the wall and use maps to determine its location. A lesson on gods and Roman religion will help the children to understand more about the culture and beliefs of Roman people, and they will play and design games to consolidate their knowledge about the different Roman gods and goddesses.

Art: With a link to our topic, children will explore and reflect on the use of mosaics by the Romans, using some example to inspire their own mosaics. Additionally, children will be given the opportunity to explore the work of Gaudi as well as the work of modern day artists and their use of mosaic. They will design and produce their own mosaics, using paper squares. We will also explore the use of patterns to create a mosaic image, using stamping.

PE: Over the course of our gymnastics lessons, children will explore shape and movement creating short sequences developing control and co-ordination; develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance; compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best. With a link to our topic, children will practise and develop a range of different skills and movement patterns linked to the art of dance with the aim of producing an interesting dance phrase to represent a montage of natural disasters.

Computing: In our Computing lessons this half term, children will collaborate to produce a 'mini Wikipedia'. They will use this to contribute research and findings linked to our topic and will regularly visit the Wiki (both in school and at home) to amend content. Children will then move on to adding and amending content on the real Wikipedia.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

Science: (To be taught by Miss Pickering) Over the course of the half term, children will learn about what electricity is and how it was discovered. They will identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children will construct a range of circuits, start to create pictorial representation and will use a range of resources creatively to make circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit.

Music: (to be taught by Miss Pickering) Music lessons will follow 'Music Express' (exploring arrangement and rhythm) and will also link to our Literacy lessons, where children will explore the use of rhythm within Roman army chants and poetry to perform.

Maths: Children will explore the area of rectilinear shapes, using a range of objects to represent 1cm cubed squares. They will use paper squares to create their own 'area robots' and will then work out the area of their robot. While studying fractions children will build upon their prior understanding of fractions and will learn how to recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions. They will count up and down in hundredths; recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by one hundred and dividing tenths by ten; solve problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number; add and subtract fractions with the same denominator; recognise and write decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths; recognise and write decimal equivalents to $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and find the effect of dividing a one- or two-digit number by 10 and 100, identifying the value of the digits in the answer as ones, tenths and hundredths. Children will build upon their prior knowledge, using a range of concrete and pictorial apparatus to consolidate their conceptual understanding and fluency. Children will then apply their conceptual and procedural knowledge to a range of contexts; deepening their understanding by tackling a range of problems and gaining confidence in explaining their reasoning, using mathematical vocabulary.

MFL(French): (To be taught by Miss Pickering) In their French lessons, children will cover the following: mon anniversaire, numbers to 50, telling the time, daily activities, months of the year, seasons and the weather.

RE: Festivals and Celebrations: Easter.

How can you help?

- Support your child in becoming independent and accountable for their own learning, taking responsibility themselves for ensuring that they have everything they need. This includes having all the equipment they need for the day, such as PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- **Practise the year 3/4 spelling list** as well as the high frequency words. Can your child read and spell them? Can they use them in a sentence?
- Complete homework activities with your child.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, **questioning children on their predictions of what might happen next. Can they use evidence in the book to support their answer?** As children become more independent in their reading, you may wish to allow your child to read independently and then question them on their understanding of the content.
- Practise mental maths including **times tables (up to 12 x 12)**; discuss money, time and measures with real examples.
- If you have any interesting topic related artefacts that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school. We would love to see any photographs of visits or outings which you may have with your children, linked to our new topic 'When in Rome'!

Homework

Children will receive a creative homework grid, detailing a range of different activities for children to choose from. All of these activities are linked to our current topic and will help enhance and enrich your child's learning.

Class Reminders

PE: Y4 – Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning

Reading books and records must be in school every day.

