

# Woodford Green Primary School

## Spring 1 Year 3 Curriculum Letter



Welcome to **Bloom Class** led by **Miss Julie French** with support from **Mrs Sonia Binns**.

This term our topic is **The Romans**.

The children will learn about the legend of Romulus and Remus and how Rome was formed, before looking at how it developed from a small city to a global empire. They will explore what the Romans did for entertainment, looking especially at the role of gladiators in the amphitheatres and why the gruesome gladiator fights were so popular with the Roman people. They will have the opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of Roman deities and mythology and discover some of the major gods and goddesses of ancient Rome, considering how and why they were worshipped by the Romans.

**Our topic will cover the following:**

In **History & Geography**, the children will explore how society was organised in ancient Rome. They will investigate what the ancient Romans believed and how this impacted their lives. Using a variety of historical sources (pictures, information texts, artefacts), they will find out about various aspects of daily life in ancient Rome. The children will locate Italy on a world and European map. They will develop an understanding of the geographical features of Italy (weather, climate, population), as well as compare these features to those of Britain. In **Art & DT**, the children will look at examples of Roman mosaics in order to design and create their own mosaics. They will study paintings of Roman myths, including the use of symbolism. They will understand how the artists of the past can help us to learn about ancient civilisations.

**Our Science topic is Animals, including humans.**

Within this topic, the children will learn about the importance of nutrition. They will compare and contrast the diets of different animals and decide ways of grouping them according to what they eat. They will have the opportunity to find out about different food groups and how they keep us healthy and design meals based on what they find out. The children will be introduced to the main body parts associated with the skeleton and muscles, finding out how different parts of the body have special functions. They will work scientifically by identifying and grouping animals with and without skeletons and observing and comparing their movement. They will be exploring ideas about what would happen if humans did not have skeletons.

**Our Power of Reading Book is The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.**

The children will be drawn into a poignant adventure story set in North America. Through a roller coaster of emotions, Edward Tulane (a china rabbit) experiences wildly different settings, identities and owners, thereby gradually learning the value of love and friendship. Edward's often harrowing experiences help shape him from a vain, pompous creature into a thoughtful, considerate friend. The narrative structure is carefully crafted, and the characters and settings are well drawn, offering a good model for the children's own story planning and descriptive writing.

**Our Maths sessions will cover Number, Statistics, Geometry, Problem Solving and Reasoning.**

The children will be developing and extending their skills in place value in order to aid their ability to solve calculations involving all four operations. They will interpreting and presenting data using a variety of graphs and charts. The children will have many opportunities to solve investigative problems and extend their reasoning skills.

**Our RE topic is Buddhism.**

The children will learn that Buddhists believe that all things change, and that reflection and meditation are important to Buddhists. They will focus on the life of the Buddha, who was born a prince but wanted to find some of the answers to problems of suffering in the world.

**Our Computing topic is Researching and Presenting.**

The children will be learning how to safely search the internet for specific information related to a given topic. They will then use their findings to create PowerPoint presentations. These presentations will allow them to develop their skills in typing, inserting pictures and creating moving images.

**Our PSHE topic is Getting On and Falling Out.**

This theme focuses on developing children's knowledge, understanding and skills in three key aspects of learning: empathy, managing feelings and social skills. The children will learn to work co-operatively within a group and how to be a good friend by solving difficult problems, keeping calm and overcoming feelings of anger.

**Our PE sessions will cover Netball and Swimming.**

**Outdoor PE** will be on **Friday**. Children will need to be appropriately dressed for this session (long trousers and a warm jumper). **Swimming** will be on **Wednesday**.

**Reading**

In order to develop comprehension skills and fluency, children should be reading for 10 minutes each evening at home. Library books will be changed on **Tuesday**. Reading skills will be developed daily in the classroom through comprehension lessons and Shared Reading.

**Homework** will take the form of a half termly/termly project based around our class topic. The children will also be given a selection of different activities from which they can pick their own weekly task. **Reading, Spellings and Times Tables** will be undertaken on a weekly basis. Children will be tested on their Spellings and Times Tables at the end of each week.

**Important dates this term**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Swimming begins for Year 3  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Break up for half term (usual time)  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March – World Book Day  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Break up for Easter Holidays