



Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 4,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. We are now officially half way through the year already - how time flies when you're having fun! We have lots more fun to come this term in Year 3 and 4 including great topics about Romans, Rocks and Soils as well as developing our drawing skills in art. Not forgetting that we have also got our trip to Oxford Museum coming up.

We are once again going to be focusing on spelling this term. Please help your child to access Spelling Shed outside of school hours. I set the spellings on Spelling Shed each week so they directly link to what we are learning in school. Even just 5/10 minutes three times a week will make a big impact on your child's learning. Please also remember that your child's spelling passport is in their reading record so why not test them on one spelling a day when you hear them read. When your child completes their passport they will be rewarded with a gold house point token, worth five house points!

It is important that children also access TT Rockstars. Year 4 will have a Multiplication Check in the summer term and by doing 'Soundcheck' on TT Rockstars they are having fun, improving recall and increasing their confidence all at the same time.

### Curriculum

<p><b>English – writing</b></p>	<p>Our first unit of work will be biography writing. We are going to read and learn more about the life of Mary Anning and her discovery of the Ichthyosaur, and ultimately write about her life in a biography style. We will be focussing on the skills of using subordinating conjunctions (when, if, because, although, since) as well as using what we learnt last term about time conjunctions and use of adverbs to up-level our writing. We will then be able to see an Ichthyosaur fossil at the Oxford Museum which will be very exciting!</p> <p>Our second unit will again be non-fiction but this time we will be diary writing. We were reading 'Pompeii: A Roman Girl's Diary' at the end of last half term and we will use this as inspiration for writing the diary in character, specifically linked to when Mount Vesuvius erupted. Our teaching focus of using subordinating conjunctions in a complex sentence will carry on through this topic too.</p>
<p><b>English – reading</b></p>	<p>VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve and Sequence)</p> <p>We will be focusing on <i>Explanation</i> for our first text which will be the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear. It is a nonsense poem and the children will be digging down deeper into the language choices and the author's intentions.</p> <p>The following two texts will be based on our Roman topic and the skill of <i>Retrieval</i>. We will be reading 'Avoid Being a Roman Soldier' and the Literacy Shed text 'All about the Romans'.</p>
<p><b>English - spelling</b></p>	<p>In week 1 we will be looking at common exception words and learning which are the tricky parts of the words we need to focus on to help us with spelling them. In week 2 we will move onto contractions (doesn't, we'll, you've). Week 3 will be the 'u' sound spelt -ou (country, cousin, double). Week 4 will focus on word families using root words (act, acted,</p>

	actress, reaction, actor). Week 5 will be all about homophones (meat, meet; knot, not). Finally in week 6 will revisit common exception words again.
<b>Maths</b>	We will start this term by finishing our measuring unit and learning about mass. We will look at measuring in grams and kilograms, looking at equivalents as well as adding and subtracting weights. We then move onto a four-week topic of fractions. We will be looking at comparing fractions, placing them on a number line, finding equivalents, mixed and improper fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and then finally finding fractions of amounts. Our last week of term will be spent learning about decimals but I will make sure our understanding of fractions is sound before moving on to this.
<b>Science</b>	This half-term in science we are exploring Rocks and Soils. As scientists, we will explore different ways to group and classify different rocks based on their appearances, ask a variety of enquiry questions ourselves, and conduct comparative tests into the permeability of rocks and soils. Additionally, we will also look at fossils and how they are formed. Should children have any rock or fossil specimens they would like to bring in, please could they do so in a clearly named container.
<b>French</b>	In French this half-term we will be learning to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise, recall and spell ten action verbs in French</li> <li>• Use these verbs in the infinitive to form positive and negative sentence structures with 'je peux' (I am able) and 'je ne peux pas' (I am not able).</li> <li>• Attempt to combine positive and negative sentence structures to form longer and more complex sentences using the conjunctions 'et' (and) / 'mais' (but).</li> </ul>
<b>History</b>	We will be delving into our Roman topic this term by first exploring how the lands of the Roman Empire changed over time and what life was like in Britain before the Romans invaded. We will be exploring why the Roman army was so successful and what life was like in Roman Britain. We will then learn about Boudicca's rebellion and the Battle of Colchester. Finally, we will be exploring the legacy of Romans on life today.
<b>Art</b>	The children will become 'Growing Artists' this term, developing their drawing skills. To begin, we will examine how artists use shape in drawing then practise this skill when making our own observational drawings. Once we are able to do this, we will look at how to create tone in drawing through shading and how texture can be created and used within our work. Finally, we will apply all these drawing skills alongside exploring composition and scale when creating our own abstract drawing. To support our understanding in this unit, we will look at the work and drawings created by Georgia O'Keeffe, Charles Darwin, Maud Purdy, Max Ernst and Carl Linnaeus.
<b>RE</b>	We will continue our investigation into the question: How do religions express their beliefs about God through symbolism? We will think about how both the symbols of water and light are used and are important to many religions. We will also create a symbol to express our feelings whilst thinking about the religious importance of Mothering Sunday. Then in the second half of the term we will be looking at the significance of symbolism in the Hindu festival of Holi, and the Christian remembrance of Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper.
<b>Computing</b>	We will be learning all about Spreadsheets this half term. We will be formatting cells, creating line graphs and then using a spreadsheet for budgeting when planning an imaginary party. Finally, to coincide with our maths, we will be creating a place value resource to convert between, Hundreds, Tens, Ones, Tenths and maybe even Hundredths.
<b>PSHE</b>	

### PE Lessons

Please note that our class PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. Where possible, PE lessons will take place outside so please ensure that winter PE kit items are worn when the weather is cool and summer hats are supplied in the case of the sun making an appearance too! Uniform expectations can be found on our school website. If your child has had their ears pierced and is unable to take the earrings out for PE, please provide microporous tape for the children to cover their earlobes with.

### Reading and Home Learning Expectations

Thank you for your continued effort with homework. The children are all handing it in successfully and have learnt how to use Google Classroom. They are very welcome to come to homework club on a Wednesday lunchtime if it is easier than fitting it in at home. **However**, every child is now required to do **Spelling Shed** three times a week so some time at home will be needed for this. Year 4 are also expected to go on TT Rockstars at least twice a week. Please help your child access them either on the apps or on the websites. This only needs to be 5/10 minutes a day but it will really help with their learning.

As always if you have any queries or need to speak to use about something, please let us know on the gate or via an email and we will help in any way we can.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Clarke

Year 3 and 4 Class Teacher