



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy term we have had since October with fantastic efforts in learning our times tables. Now we look forward to the first term of 2015 with two more weeks of 'Roman Rule', including our Roman visitors and our Roman Invasion simulation. Then we will have four weeks of our new topic.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – 'Britain from the Air'

In our new topic, the children will be exploring how things look from the air and investigating the local area. They will be investigating important landmarks in Britain and discovering how our landscape has changed over the years due to a variety of influences. The theme will be linked across our Literacy (non-fiction), science, art, maths, computing and extended writing work, and will incorporate the main focus in geography with a little in history. Religious Education will continue to be taught using the new Peterborough Guidelines.

Areas of study for the first half of the spring term will include:

- How to ask geographical questions.
- How to use atlases, maps and plans at a range of scales.
- How to obtain information from secondary sources, including aerial photographs.
- How to use ICT programmes to write a set of instructions.
- What places are like in their locality.
- How people preserve places of special interest.
- How the Victorians changed Britain's landscape.

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Sights, view, birds-eye view, landmarks, places of special interest, monuments, Ordnance Survey, symbols, locality, settlement grid references, co-ordinates, Y axis, X axis, plot, quadrant, Ordnance Survey maps, compass directions, orienteering, navigate, satellite, aerial view, coastline, islands, cliffs, beaches, mountains, rivers, lakes, landmarks, view, hot air balloon, experience, 5 senses, diary, model, statue, 3D model, Sun, Earth, orbit, Industrial Revolution, inventions, inventors, The Great Exhibition, The Crystal Palace, National Trust, preserve, buildings, coastline, National Parks, locality, archaeologist, remains, outline, plans, similarities, differences, mathematical shapes, grids, pattern, trial and error, guess and check, systematic, geometric, symmetry, design, programme, maze, orientate.

MATHS

The main objectives are as follows: measurement; geometry; statistics; number; mental and written calculations.

We will be continuing our focus on mental maths and times tables. We will be working on **shapes, position and direction; statistics and time; number, place value and rounding; addition and subtraction**. The children will also learn to apply these to written problems and real life situations. Children across school will also continue to work regularly in small groups on our Assertive Mentoring programme.

ENGLISH

The Read, Write Inc Literacy and Language programme has continued to be a great success through the school, and the children are enjoying this learning strategy immensely. The partner work and focused vocabulary have helped to embed skills learnt in previous years and develop their comprehension and writing skills further. Next term, we will be studying **a story in Narrative Verse** and **Explanation Texts**. Some home reading that would support this could be 'TlIs Go Home (Troll Trouble)' – Alan MacDonald; 'The Secret Book of Trolls' – Danny Willis; 'Troll Wood' – Kathryn Cave and Paul Hess; 'Jabberwocky and Other Poems' – Tig Thomas; 'Night of the Gargoyles' – Eve Bunting and David Weisner; 'Science Verse' – Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith; any children's newspaper or magazine.



TRIPS

The Roman visitors for our previous topic are due in on Wednesday 14th January, hence our Roman topic continuing for a couple of weeks after Christmas. Also, we are currently trying to organise for someone from the National Trust to come in and talk to the children about their roles, hopefully in one of the last 3 weeks of term.

PE

Children will continue to partake in two hours of PE each week. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, **leave it in school all week** then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school.

This should consist of:

- Plain White Top
- Black or Grey Shorts
- Black or Grey long bottoms for the colder weather
- Long sleeved top for the colder weather
- Spare White Socks
- Plimsolls/Trainers
- Gloves and Hat for the cold months

Can we remind you that school rules state that, for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to be used to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. Could you please ensure that **all** kit is **named** clearly and are checked on a regular basis when written onto labels.

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

For next term, it would also be helpful if you could discuss the learning the children have done on the topic and link it to their own lives; maybe even exploring any areas you visit as a family practicing the map reading skills the children will be learning. We will be celebrating our learning with you in a number of ways, including an exhibition of their work and a 'Garden Party' in the last week of term. There will also be a Year 3 and 4 Easter show at the start of the following term for family members to enjoy.

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive another termly POWER project which will be given out on the third Wednesday of the term, as they can have 2 more weeks for their Roman work. This has been very successful so far and the children have enjoyed creating their projects very much. These tasks will again enable the children to earn POWER points. The children can choose from projects called 'A Local Bird's Eye View' and 'Watch PIXAR's Up!'. These activities are not compulsory, but are a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child; the more creative the better!

In addition to this, every Wednesday the children will be given a literacy and maths or science task which is due the following Wednesday, and they will be awarded house points for their efforts on these tasks. This home learning is expected to be completed at home and handed in on time by the due date. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break times. Can you please ensure that your child completes the literacy/maths/science home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

BREAK TIMES

Children may bring in a snack to eat at morning break but it must be a healthy option, and remember that we are a nut free school.

Also, a Hot Meal option is available every day for your child's lunch. Please make payments by using ParentPay, our secure online payment system. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties with ParentPay.

It has been a really enjoyable term in year 4 and we are working together as a class to help each other be the best that we can be. We are looking forward to next term, and know that we will have lots of fun and successes.

Yours sincerely

Miss Miller
Class Teacher

Mrs Fenwick
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Dunkley
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Brittan
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

