



## Spring Term 2020

### Welcome back,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable and hopefully relaxing (at times!), Christmas break. I am incredibly excited for the busy term ahead and know the children are going to try their very best in all that they do. Our topic for this half term is the Romans; we will begin the topic learning about the chronology of the Roman settlement in Britain – how does this fit with other key periods of UK and world history? Children will learn about the expansion of the Roman Empire and explore the Roman impact on Britain, especially focusing on Roman York.

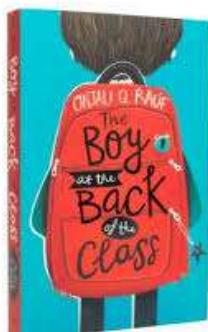


### English:

We will be using some Roman themed texts as a stimulus for our writing. We will begin with Romulus and Remus (a Roman myth explaining how Rome was found). We will explore the key features of a myth and this work will culminate in the children writing their own myth. Later in the term, we will share the book 'The Thieves of Ostia' by Caroline Lawrence. The aim is for the children to write a Roman mystery story based on the text. The unit allows the children the opportunity to become more familiar with crime/mystery stories and their composition. Our aim is to improve our writing across a number of genres, ensuring that the presentation of our writing also improves. The children will continue to be taught grammar and spelling lessons discretely but we will also weave this through the whole curriculum, where appropriate too.

### Reading:

We teach guided reading as a whole class and it is wonderful to be able to share texts together and enter into deep discussions about the characters, plot, language and purpose. As well as improving reading skills, it will also help children verbalise their ideas better and will naturally help strengthen the children's learning across the whole curriculum. In teaching guided reading in this way, we hope to help create a love of reading as it is the foundation of learning alongside deepening the



skills essential to reading, such as inference as deduction. This term, we will be reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Raúf. This story is about a refugee who has escaped war and come to Britain for safety. Some new friends help him to become accepted.

### **Maths:**

This term we will begin by securing the children's understanding of fractions. They will learn how to simplify fractions; add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions; find equivalent fractions; be able to order them and place them on a number line and to solve problems. We will then move on to learn about ratio. There will be an ongoing focus to further improve the children's knowledge and skills when tackling arithmetic questions. We need to build speed and accuracy for a range of questions and will be completing daily practice questions to further improve. We would very much like the children to become experts in their times tables recall so please do encourage them to use their Time Tables Rockstars accounts, when at home, as we will also be pushing this in school too. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to have rapid and accurate recall of all times tables up to 12. If you have any questions about how to support the children with their maths learning at home, please do not hesitate to ask.

### **History/Geography:**

As already mentioned, in History the children will be looking at different aspects of the Roman influence in Britain, such as their legacy – roads, architecture, entertainment, art. We will also learn more about the Roman army formations and how they were able to gain such a vast empire. As well as this, they will look at maps of the Roman Empire to geographically locate the countries that were ruled. There will be extra opportunities for the children to write leaflets and diaries during our topic work, allowing for in-depth cross curricular activities.

### **Art/DT:**

Linking to our Roman topic, the children will be researching about the Roman mosaics and designing their own based on their research. They will then create a paper mosaic and also a tiled mosaic too. Later in the term, we will investigate the Roman shield designs and make our own Roman shields from cardboard. We look forward to then using these shields to enter into Roman battle formations against each other!



### **R.E:**

In R.E. we will be looking at Inspirational People. From this we will find out about why Jesus was inspiring, what his teachings tell us and what he did to challenge social injustice.

## **Science**

Our area of focus this term is: rocks, fossils and soils. The children will learn how different rocks were made by planet Earth and will relate the simple physical properties of some rocks to their formation (igneous or sedimentary). Please do bring in any interesting rocks or fossils you may have at home (Science will be taught on a Tuesday, by Mrs S. Smith)

## **Computing:**

We will be learning about how to use internet search engines effectively, how search engines operate and store data, how to be discerning in evaluating digital content and understanding how to use the internet responsibly, securely and safely.

## **PE:**

The children will be learning to develop their hockey skills and tactical game knowledge this term. This will be on a Tuesday with Mrs S. Smith. On a Friday (for the first four weeks of term), we will be swimming. Please remember to bring suitable kit to all PE lessons.



## **Homework:**

The children would benefit from being able to read with an adult every night. Please record any reading into their reading journals. From next Monday (13<sup>th</sup> January), the children will be given ten spelling words to learn, ready for a spelling test the following Monday. They will practise their spelling words in the book given to them where we expect them to follow a 'look, cover, write check' format but they must also write 5 of their words into a sentence, to give it context. Their spelling test will be completed into the same book. Their weekly spelling results will therefore be accessible to parents via the score written in their book. Additionally, the children will receive one piece of homework related to our Topic, and one piece of Maths homework related to arithmetic, each Friday. It will be due in one week later (on Friday).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me,

**Kind regards,**

**Mrs Lofthouse, Mrs Smith and Mrs Collins**