



The Soaring Swallows

Autumn Newsletter 2017

Hello and welcome to The Soaring Swallows! We have a very busy year ahead and are look forward to sharing with you all the exciting things that we will be doing in the run up to Christmas. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Newton as our classroom teaching assistant this year. She has been a part of the team for many years and is really looking forward to her return to KS2! We are dedicated to ensuring that your child feels safe and happy during their time in Year 4 and resultantly ask that you pop and see us if you or your child have any questions or worries so that we can move forward together.

Below, you will find an overview of what to expect in the following term!

Topics: The Autumn Term topics are 'The Ruthless Romans' and 'Potions'. This half-term we will be exploring The Roman Empire. The children will develop an understanding of the three ruling systems, the Romans' extravagant methods of entertainment and the expansion of the Roman Empire which lead to the invasion of Britain. We will also investigate what Britain was like before the Roman invasion, focusing on the Celtic way of life. Children will have the opportunity to research iconic figures such as Boudicca and Julius Caesar and also become more aware of the impact that the Roman Empire has had on life today, such as the building of roads.

During the run-up to Christmas our topic will change to 'Potions' with an emphasis on science skills. Children will explore the properties of solids, liquids and gasses through making potions and investigate changing states, evaporation and condensation.

The children will also have regular ICT and RE lessons with Mrs Graham on a Tuesday morning

Reading: In school, we are continuing to focus on what the children understand from what they have read, and how they communicate their understanding. We will check reading diaries and will record when we have read together both on a 1 to 1 basis. We also have a shared reading session every day in which we will explore different reading strategies and encourage talk around a text. We ask that you read with or to your child whenever possible. I will be checking reading diaries weekly so please leave a comment or come and speak to me if you have any questions! If you would like to volunteer to come and read with children in school please let myself or Mrs Newton know.

P.E: Year 4 will be having P.E. twice a week; Monday morning and on a Thursday afternoon. For the first term children will be participating in Netball and Hockey. **Please ensure that the children bring the appropriate kit along on those days.** Please also ensure that children have removed any jewellery that day or that they are capable of removing the jewellery themselves during the day.

Maths: Year 4 will start the year with a focus of consolidating their place value skills through a variety of concrete, pictorial and abstract concepts. Children will be expected to order, compare and round numbers beyond 1000. We will also be learning to read Roman Numerals up to 100. The children will then explore different methods for addition and subtraction, including the compact method, and will begin to select an appropriate method when faced with a calculation. **Please help your child practise their 3,4,6,7,8 and 9 times tables,** it really is so very important and makes such a difference to their confidence and their understanding of new mathematical concepts.

English: In English we will be starting the year by reading *Escape from Pompeii* and *The Captive Celt*. We will also be studying the Roman myth 'Romulus and Remus'. The children will explore a range of different text types with links to The Romans and will have opportunities to develop their writing through newspaper reports, information texts, poetry and biographies. The children will have a weekly spelling test and regular opportunities to practise their handwriting. Please support the children at home with their handwriting and spelling practice. Attached is a list of year 4 spellings that the children are expected to have learned by the end of the year.