



## 5/6 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 1 2017 What did the Romans do for us?

Dear Parents /Carers,

Wow! Another year has passed and the children are now ready to take the next step on their journey. We are busy preparing for the children to join us after the holiday and cannot wait to begin our first theme. We are starting our term learning about the Romans in our theme, 'What did the Roman do for us?' The children were introduced to this topic on shuffle up day and have already showed so much enthusiasm.



### Overview of Themes and Trips and Visitors for the year

**Autumn 1 - What did the Romans do for us?** See the information about Portals to the Past visitors.

**Autumn 2 - Thrills & Spills.** We will use the fun of the fair to help us as scientists and will also be getting involved in Wind Tunnel workshops in school.

**Spring Term 1 - History Detectives.** We will be looking at the Shang Dynasty.

**Spring Term 2 – Geography Explorers.** We will be walking around the town developing our Geography Skills.

**Summer Terms – Conflict.** At the end of the Summer Term, our learning about Conflict will be enriched by our Residential Trip to France. Children who are not coming on the residential will be going on trips to Duxford, Wellingborough Museum and the National Memorial Arboretum. The approximate cost of these trips all together will be £40-£50. Details of a payment scheme to spread the cost will be sent out in the Autumn Term.

We will keep you updated about the costs and dates to enable you to budget for them.

### What did the Romans do for us?

This term, we will be becoming historians. Our learning will be based around the period of the Roman Empire where we will focus specifically on the impact of the Romans on Britain. The children will learn more about chronology and how to effectively use a timeline; we will evaluate sources of information; and compare key events in world history.

We will be kicking off the term with a visit from 'Portal to the Past'. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to get 'hands-on' and experience life as a Roman; **we look forward to seeing all the children dressed up as Romans on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.** There is a £5 payment per child for this visit.

### English

In English ,we will continue to use the Talk 4 Writing model, where children are shown a great example of a text, learn it off-by-heart and then use it to help write their own version. We will be learning about myths and legends that follow a 'meeting tale' structure; two or more characters meet, encounter a problem and then eventually overcome the barriers they face. We will be

focusing on the different ways to start and end a story by using our analysing skills. We will then be moving on to our non-fiction work, where we will be reading and writing a non-chronological report using our knowledge of the Romans. The grammar focus for this term will be using adverbs, adverbials, formal and informal vocabulary, synonyms as well as looking at ways in which we can present our work effectively. We will then finally move on to lyrical poems, where the writer expresses their own feelings and emotions through poetry – the children will find this great fun!

### **Maths**

In Maths this term, Year 5 will be focusing on improving our understanding of place value, including decimal numbers. This will then help to feed into our understanding of addition and subtraction; the focus will be on consolidating formal and informal ways of calculating and then ways in which to apply these skills in a range of situations.

In Maths this term, Year 6 will also be consolidating our understanding of place value before moving on to addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. The focus of our learning will be improving our knowledge and speed of recall of multiples and factors as well as using a formal method to divide.

To support your child with their Maths learning, please discuss what they have learnt at school and ask them to show you the methods they have been using; times tables and quick-recall of the corresponding division facts is a great way to keep your mental maths skills sharp!

### **What we ask of the children at home**

We want to encourage the children to talk as much as possible about their learning; this helps them to practise and consolidate the skills and knowledge they have gained during the school day. The following is expected of the children:



- **Read at home 3 times per week** – the children can write in their reading log themselves, but please add you initials or signature
- **Practise set spellings 3 times per week** – these could be written in their homework book or just practised out-loud
- **Practise their times tables and corresponding division facts 3 times per week**
- **Complete one piece of homework**, of their choice, per week – this is sent home on a Thursday and is due back on the following Monday

### **PE**

PE kit should be in school every day as we are not always able to stick to our planned PE days. PE kit should include clothing suitable for the weather along with plimsolls (trainers are sometimes a better option if possible). Earrings should not be worn for PE; if your child has recently had them pierced, please write a letter to your child's class teacher and provide tape for them to wear during PE lessons. Water bottles should be brought to school with fresh water each day and taken home to be cleaned each evening. This is essential to keep children hydrated throughout the day, including during PE lessons.



Yours Sincerely

Mrs Durrheim, Mrs Brett, Mrs Brightwell and Mrs Tracey