

**Spring Term 2 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a relatively dry week last week and weren’t affected too badly by Storm Dennis.

This half term we are focusing on a subject that’s on everyone’s lips – Chocolate!

As a class book, we will be reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and this will link to most other topics we will be learning about this half term. In English, we will be creating instructions and practicing persuasive writing. For maths, we will be looking at measuring, statistics, time and budgeting. DT will involve us assessing what makes a chocolate bar successful and then how we can try to replicate that success when making our own, whilst in Geography, we will better understand what human impact extreme weather can have and how this may affect the tropical locations and people where cocao beans are grown.

**Reading** this half term we will be focused mainly on vocabulary, explanation and summarising as this is a story many children already know (although the book does has some differences to the film).

This topic links well to the Mayans, who the class learnt about last year, and were the first people to grow and use cacao beans.

Thank you to those parents/carers who have supported children to better understand how to tell the time – please keep practicing this with your child by asking them the time and using a clock with hour and minute hands.

In Computing, we shall be learning how to code using Scratch. Children will create their own simple computer games. This software is free and children enjoy playing around and exploring how to use it, so please feel free to download it at home if you are able.

Some other reminders this half term:

In June, Year 4 will sit the first ever **Multiplications Tables Check** (a national online times tables test). Time tables up to 12 x 12 will be tested and for each times table question, children will have up to 6 seconds to answer. There will be 25 questions in all. Year 4 are pretty good overall, but please encourage your child to practice these, for example, on the way to school

Year 4 will be taking part in **Forest Schools** on a Tuesday afternoons – please ensure your child has wellies and warm clothes (which you don’t mind if they get a bit muddy).

**PE** is again Wednesday and Thursday afternoons this term. We will be learning cricket and improving our fitness with circuit training. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE clothing.

**Reading** **at home** – as a school we ask for 4 reads per week as a minimum – the benefits of being an able and avid reader are long term and can be life changing. When your child reads, could you please sign their book at least once per week – it really helps us.

**Class Dojo** – many parents have signed up, but there are still a few who are missing out. Class Dojo lets me send you information about what your child has been doing, how many reward points they’ve earned and it is an easy way to get in touch with me if there is anything you wish to discuss.

**Homework** focuses on times tables (TT Rockstars), spelling practice (Friday Spelling Tests), reading (Reading Certificates) and a weekly reading task (from Reading Journals - handed in by Friday of each week).

I look forward to seeing you later this term to discuss your child’s progress.

Many Thanks

Carl Bown