

**Spring Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a fantastic break and your child is ready for a busy, but exciting start to 2020.

We are maintaining our focus on reading as it is a fundamental skill in order to learn about other people and places, widen vocabularies and get new ideas on how to improve writing.

**Reading** this half term we will be focused mainly on fact retrieval and inference and enriching our topics’ learning through the use of non-fiction books.

In **English**, we are studying the book ‘Escape from Pompeii’ about the massive eruption of the volcano Vesuvius in AD 79 and tells the tale of how two children survived. This creates links to our previous topic of Romans and helps children to understand the devastation that can be caused through natural disasters.

Later this half term, we will then progress to a book called ‘Flood’ - a beautifully illustrated picture book which portrays one family’s struggle against the elements.

Our **Maths** focus is on fractions and decimals, graphs and telling the time.

Last year, Year 3 children should have been able to tell the time to the nearest minute. I am aware that many children in class still find this challenging, so I would be grateful if you practised telling the time at home with your child. They need to know o’clock and half past, progressing to quarter to/past, then 5 minute and 1 minute increments.

We will also continue to support your child’s knowledge of times tables up to 12 x 12. This is in readiness for the new online **national times tables test** which will be administered in June 2020. For each times table question, children will have up to 6 seconds to answer. There will be 25 questions in all.

With our **Topic** of ‘natural disasters’, I hope to be conducting lots of practical hands-on activities that will help the children visualise and better understand what happens when one of these events takes place.

For **Science**, I hope to be going outdoors to collecting data for our topic of ‘animals and their habitats’ and understanding ways we can group and classify organisms.

**Some other reminders and changes this half term:**

**PE** – is Wednesday and Thursday afternoons this term – 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, 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).

Year 4 will be going on a **school trip** to Magna Science Park soon after we return from the Easter break. I will provide more information on that shortly.

Many thanks,

Mr Bown