



SQUIRRELS' NEWSLETTER TERM 2 2023-24

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the break. I hope that the children all enjoyed a good rest after a busy term. We have all been so proud of the way the children settled into the new school year and how hard they have all worked. They have enjoyed their topics and shown such enthusiasm for their learning. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend parent consultations. It was lovely to meet you all.

I will be teaching the class all day on a Monday, Tuesday and a Wednesday. In order that I am able to also carry out my deputy head duties, the class will be taught by Mrs Blunt on a Thursday and a Friday. Mrs Jones will be supporting the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Brown will be in class on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Berry teaches the class on a Wednesday afternoon.

If you do have any questions, comments or concerns then please do not hesitate to come and speak to me either before school or at the end of the day. You can also email me at jo.godfrey@bad.kent.sch.uk

We are all looking forward to a great new term.

Mrs Cottenden, Mrs Blunt, Mrs Jones, and Mrs Brown



Learning Overview

English - This term has a focus on books related to our History topic. With Mrs Cottenden, the class will be studying a story called 'Escape from Pompeii'. We will be developing our descriptions of settings, writing recounts and then a newspaper article. With Mrs Blunt, the children will be looking at *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl.

Maths - We will be beginning the term continuing to think about addition and subtraction including the formal written methods we began using last term. We will then be moving on to multiplication and division using the 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables before moving on to the written method called the grid method. Mrs Blunt will be working with the class to improve their understanding of time. We will also complete times table practice, mental arithmetic and problem solving activities regularly.

Science - This term the areas of Science we will be looking at include rocks and soils, materials and their properties, sound, electrical circuits and nutrition.

R.E - Our topic for this term continues to be 'What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?' This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about what Christians do at home, in church and in the wider community and why these things are important to them.

P.E - This term the children will have PE on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**. With Mrs Cottenden, the children will be putting together a wake and shake routine. With Mrs Blunt, the children will be doing cross country and indoor athletics. *Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for these sessions especially as the weather starts to turn cooler.*

Art - Art and history will be combined this term as we will be researching Roman art and designing and making our own Roman mosaics.

History/Geography - We are continuing our learning on the Romans and how they were so successful. We will also be going to visit the Roman museum in Canterbury.

PSHE - This term we will be focusing on 'How can we keep safe?'. We will be thinking about our safety in a variety of situations such as using the railway, crossing roads as well as thinking about how we use medicines.

Music - In music this term we are going to be exploring the importance of music in Ancient Rome. We will be listening to and appreciating different music from this era and having a go at creating our own piece using symbols and percussion instruments. As we look towards Christmas we will be carrying out plenty of singing practise.

French - Our second topic in French is 'Jeux et chansons' (games and songs). Throughout this, the children will listen attentively to spoken language and will begin to show an understanding by joining in and responding. We will explore patterns and sounds of language through songs and link the spelling, sounds and meaning of words.

Computing - The term will start off with an e-safety lesson on being respectful online. We will then be practising our typing and word processing skills. We will use touch typing programmes to introduce children to using the keypad with two hands and familiarising themselves with the position of the keys. We will then practise simple skills, such as changing font size, colour and using bold and underlining text.



Home Learning

Spellings

Each week the children will be given spellings on a **Thursday** that need to be practised and learnt for a test the following **Tuesday**. Spellings that the children learn will be based upon learning in class as well as from the Y3 and Y4 spelling expectations. They are asked to practise each word a number of times using a variety of spelling techniques they have been taught in class. This makes up a significant part of their home learning and I do expect that the children make time to practise and learn their spellings each week.

Times Table Tasks

Alongside spellings, the children will be set an additional, shorter task that will be related to learning their multiplication tables and corresponding division facts. These will be based on each pupil's individual need following work in school on multiplication and division facts and through a website/ app called 'MathShed'. The children have log-ins for this in their reading record book and have been practising using it at school. Once they have completed the set assignment, they are then able to practise other times tables. A good place to start is 2, 5 and 10 times tables which they learnt in Year 2. In Year Three, we review these, then begin learning the 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11 times tables. Some of the children were using this website regularly at home last term and it has made a real difference to their speed and accuracy of recall of number facts.

Reading

Regular reading should still be taking place at home. The children can read a combination of their school reading books as well as their own books from home, the class book corner or the library. Please encourage daily reading of 15 minutes, which should be recorded in their home school record book. We will continue to change reading books on a **Monday** and a **Friday** so please make sure that their books and reading record books are in school, particularly on these days. If your child needs to change their book on other days, we will do our best to accommodate this.

Additional (optional) Learning

These tasks are all linked to our History topic on the Romans. They are optional and do not need to be completed but will broaden their understanding of the life and times of Romans in Britain.

1. Make a list of objects that we would use now that the Romans used.
2. Come up with your own Roman name and say why you chose it.
3. Draw or paint a picture of a scene from the Roman times e.g. a Roman banquet, a chariot race, a Roman household. Write a caption to go with it.
4. Write a short newspaper article announcing the invasion of Britain.
5. Draw yourself as a Roman - you can be any type of Roman you like (soldier, slave, Emperor).
6. Write a diary entry from someone in a British village which gets taken over by the Romans.
7. Find a Roman recipe. Make the recipe and take a photo to show your creation.
8. Write your own acrostic poem about something Roman.
9. Create an outdoor game for Roman children to play.
10. Design an outfit for a rich person to wear in Roman times.
11. Create a job advert for someone to work as a slave in a Roman villa.
12. If you were the Roman Emperor what new laws would you make and why?