



SQUIRRELS CLASS NEWSLETTER

BELIEVE - **DISCOVER** - ASPIRE

SPRING TERM 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to Year 4 in Squirrels Class. We hope all of you had a happy and healthy Christmas break and are refreshed ready for the New Year! We are happy to have Mrs Roots back in the classroom supporting us. If at any time you have any concerns or queries relating to your child please feel free to call in and speak to us after school.

Our enquiry question for Spring Term One is 'How did achievements of Ancient Maya impact their society and beyond?'

Mrs Foot and Mrs Gilham

Homework

Reading Books: In school, we strive to hear as many children read aloud as we possibly can, each and every week. Occasionally, we might find that a child needs help in finding a suitable independent reading book, and we will change it with them in school. Please hear your child read aloud at home, and let us know how they are getting on by recording in their reading record.

Children who read three times or more at home in the week will move along on our class Reading Race. Please make sure you sign the journal each time they read so they can race their classmates and earn their certificates!

Homework: Now that we are a third of the way into Year 4, I would expect that all children are reading at least 3x a week at home to an adult please. Reading breaks down many barriers to learning, it is so important that the children continue to improve their reading skills.

We will also send home weekly spellings linked to the phonics scheme and statutory words. These must be learnt and written out at home please. We would like the children to practice writing their spellings for a test on a Friday morning please. These will build on the sounds learnt in phonics and the high frequency words.

Homework will include a focus on maths too, and times tables in particular. The children must practice their times tables at home as well as in school, ideally at least three times per week. TTRS is an effective and exciting way to accomplish this.

PE and Games

Our **NEW** P.E. days are **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please remember to pack warm PE kit for the winter months, as we will endeavor to use the outdoor spaces whenever possible. Children need to remove earrings for PE. If children cannot remove their earrings, please provide microporous tape so they can be taped over during PE sessions. Any children with long enough hair need to have it tied up for PE sessions.

English

We will be writing narratives exploring Mayan Culture and Folktales. We will be looking at persuasive writing skills and developing our speaking and listening through persuasive speeches. As well as our composition, we will also be developing our comprehension and inferential skills and exploring a variety of texts.

Mathematics

In our maths lessons, this term, we will be continuing to learn about multiplication and division. This will include factor pairs, and multiplying and dividing two or three digit numbers by single digit numbers. Then, we will start to learn about length and perimeter, particularly of rectilinear shapes and polygons. We will send details the Year 4 multiplication test early in the term. Thank you for supporting the children with improving their times tables.

Science

This half term we will be looking at sound. Children will be investigating how sounds are made, how they travel and exploring pitch and volume through practical experiments. We will be continuing to develop our working scientifically skills, through making observations and comparisons, as well as asking questions and making predictions.

PSHE:

This term in PSHE, Year 4 will be trialing our new scheme through Kapow. We will be exploring the Citizenship unit. We will look at how we can support our community, the roles we can play in society and diversity within our community.

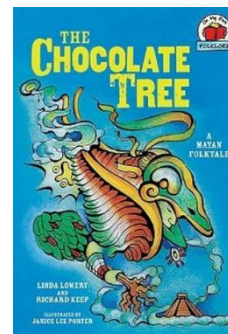
RE

In R.E, we will be learning about Judaism. The focus question is "How special is the relationship Jews have with God?" which will lead us further into discussions about agreements, pacts, covenants and promises. We will study several examples of promises made between Jewish people and God, and how these are represented.

Humanities

We will be exploring the Mayan Civilisation in History this term. We will be sequencing events, developing our chronological ordering skills and linking them to key parts in Britain. We will be looking at their settlements in the rainforest and their beliefs. We will be exploring features of Ancient Maya cities and using this to make deductions about their lives. We will also be exploring the importance of archaeologists, archivists and historians in constructing our understanding of the past.

How did the achievements of the Ancient Maya impact their society and beyond?



Computing

Our focus in computing will enable us to create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. We will learn Logo commands to help program, read and write computer code.

We will continue to discuss and advise on the safety of children online, as well as what to do if you feel unsafe whilst using a website or app.

Music

This term, Charanga will support us in developing Pulse & Groove through improvisation. We will be considering the question of how music improves the world we live in.

PE and Games

Our **NEW** P.E. days are Wednesday and Thursday. We will be doing football with Lee Cuff on a Wednesday, so if children have football boots they are welcome to bring them in. On Thursdays, we will be learning about dodgeball with our Prime Sports Coaches.

Art/Design Technology

This half term we will be looking at the structure of Pavillions. They will be designing and constructing pavillion models, exploring different structures and their uses.