

Dear Year 4 Parents / Carers,

I am very excited to inform you that our new topic for the Summer Term will be '**The Empire Strikes Back**', focusing on the achievements and legacy of the Roman Empire. We will explore aspects of daily life, food and what the Romans did for fun. We will also explore the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius through two books: 'Escape from Pompeii' and 'The Secrets of Vesuvius'.



Below is a brief plan of what we will be learning about across the Summer Term with useful ideas and links that your child might like to explore and complete at home.

My door is always open so please feel free to come and see me with any concerns, information and questions that you may have or make an appointment with the office.

Miss Laycock,

	Outcomes	How you can help at home Useful information and support
English	We will begin by looking at Myths and Legends before writing diaries full of thoughts and feelings. Following this, we will write non-chronological reports and then develop our poetry writing. Throughout the term, we will link our writing to the topic and will continue to work on the spelling, punctuation and grammar expectations for year 4.	Share reading experiences with your child both through books and other texts (magazines, recipes, etc.). Discuss similarities and differences in texts. Talk about why the author has chosen to use specific words. Think about why the text has been presented in a certain way. https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar has a variety of useful games for children to practice their grammar. BBC Bitesize is also a useful website for this.
Maths	We will continue to practice formal methods for all operations and apply them in a range of contexts and problems. We will also develop our knowledge of fractions and their relationship with decimals, as well as exploring position and direction and creating line graphs.	Time table practise (including the division facts). Encourage children to read the time on both digital and analogue clocks. When shopping, ask children to round the costs to the nearest £ and add the amounts as they go to create an estimate. How close can they get? Develop fluency through practicing number bonds and mental addition. Top Marks is a great website for times tables games - my favourite is Hit the Button!
Science	We will begin by exploring electricity and creating electrical circuits. In the latter half of the term, we will plan and carry out investigations around sound.	Identify appliances that run on electricity and whether that is from a battery or from the mains. Discuss how to be safe with electricity. Listen to pieces of music and see if you can spot changes in pitch and volume.

History	We will be exploring the Roman Empire. We will look at army life, homes, food, entertainment and Bouidicca. We will also explore what was left behind by the Romans.	Research online or pop to the library. Have a look for non-fiction books about Rome and The Roman Empire. What was an emperor? What is Rome like today? What happened in Pompeii?
Geography	We will be identifying the countries in Europe and which areas were part of the Roman Empire. We will use this to find out how far the Roman army marched.	Ask your children to navigate a route for you. Can they use google maps and plan a trip? Talk about the climate in different countries and how life is different in different locations.
Art & DT	We will be looking at Roman mosaics and then designing and creating our own.	If you are in Colchester, or other Roman towns, take a look at the Roman walls and mosaics that are dotted around.
PE	We will be out in the sunshine developing our tennis technique. Followed by athletics in preparation for sports day.	Encourage your child to join a sports club either within or outside of the school. Please check that your child has a full indoor and outdoor PE kit with them in school at all times so they are always ready.
RE	We will be looking at Sikhism before we then compare it with Christianity.	Talk about your own beliefs. Discuss who you turn to for support and objects of significance to you. http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/sikhism/index.shtml
Computing	Using a program called Scratch, we will write and debug algorithms. Then we will use a variety of technologies to produce animated Power Point presentations.	At home, you could use word documents and Power Point to improve their skills using computers and typing speed.
French	In French, we will be learning to say what we do and don't like. We will listen and respond to a range of stories and play games to learn new vocabulary.	The BBC has some great resources for practicing your French skills: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z39d7ty

We hope you will enjoy our new topic!



