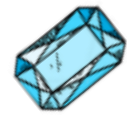


Opal Class Spring Term Newsletter 2024



The start of this spring term has been a time of change, for all the children in Opal Class. Many were very fond of Miss Chandler and were naturally sad to say goodbye. Changing teacher through the year can be challenging but can also provide new opportunities. I have really enjoyed getting to know the class in the first few days and look forward to meeting you through the 'open classrooms' on Wednesdays directly after school for the first few weeks. However, if you have any questions or want a quick chat, I am happy to arrange a phone call at a mutually convenient time.

English

During the Spring term, we are exploring writing information texts and newspaper reports, building on the previous work on Romans and volcanoes in Autumn. The children will be writing a newspaper report on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children will use their knowledge of the correct terminology, coupled with their prior knowledge and new skills in grammatical techniques to write their reports.

Reading

The children will continue to have a book to read at home and school from the Accelerated Reader programme.

In Year 4, we use the whole class guided reading approach and will continue this throughout the Spring Term, providing focused support on retrieval and inference skills. The children will continue to read independently and quiz using Accelerated Reader. It is essential that children are reading for a minimum of 20 minutes a day and that they have as many opportunities to read to an adult as possible. Hearing your child read or encouraging them to relax with a book (or any reading material) is hugely beneficial to so many areas of their school life.

Maths

This term we will be focusing on Multiplication and Division. Time tables are a key focus in Yr 4 due to the statutory times table check which is carried out in June. You can find parents information on this at [Multiplication tables check: information for parents \(text version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents). The best support you can provide for your child is to encourage the regular practising of times tables alongside the maths homework. This can be done using Times Tables Rockstars (TTRockstars).

Homework

Homework will be set on a Friday and we will mark this together the following Friday. The spelling test is on a Friday too. The children have an A4 green homework book and in it should be the spellings for the current half of the term. They also are provided by the school a grammar, spelling and punctuation resource book. Work is identified each week from this book.

Maths - weekly: Children will have the opportunity to consolidate and further their learning via the 'My Maths' and 'TT Rockstars' homework sites. Please let me know if completing homework has been difficult in the past and we will find a way to work around this.

There will be an extended project each half term. Further information will follow closer to the half-term break.

Topic

As geographers we will be learning to use atlases, maps and online information to locate, identify and explore mountains in the UK and globally. We will learn to understand different formations of mountains and the unique mountain climates.

We will as historians be looking at Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots and the impact on language, kingdoms, roles, art, culture and religion.

As scientists we are investigating sound and how it is created and how we receive it. In the second half of spring term we will be exploring the human digestive system, and food chains identifying producers, predators and prey.

P.E.

This half term Tuesdays is Forest School which replaces a P.E lesson. The children require wellies or footwear that can get muddy and wet. They also need warm clothing to go out in, that can get wet and muddy, with a change of clothes to wear for the rest of the day in school. They should have warm coats, gloves and hats whilst it is cold.

The other P.E. lesson this half term is on Fridays.

Finally, please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss your child and their learning as it is vital that we work together to ensure that they have a happy and successful year.

Kind regards

Mrs Larman