



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy start to the school year we have had! Classrooms are full of learning and engagement, and it is just lovely to see all of our children playing together as one community on the playground.

### **Curriculum Update**

Please see below, information on what learning is happening in your child's year group for each subject.

#### **Year 4**

**Reading:** Year 4 are currently reading a narrative called *Escape from Rome* by Caroline Lawrence. They will answer questions about this text in order to assess their understanding of what they have read.

**Writing:** Year 4 will be applying their knowledge of sentence structures and vocabulary to write a narrative based in Roman times, an information text on *The Romans*, a diary entry, an informal letter and remembrance poetry. They will identify the key features of each of these genres and use these features to write an independent piece.

**Maths:** At the beginning of the year, children in Year 4 developed their understanding of the number system and place value. They have consolidated skills in addition and subtraction and used these skills within a context. More recently, they have begun to use more formal methods to multiply and divide and will be moving on to data analysis in the next half term.

**Science:** This half term, Year 4 will be learning about 'States of Matter' and will learn the answers to the following key questions:

- What is the difference between a solid, a liquid and a gas?
- How can solids, liquids and gases be compared and grouped?
- How do materials change state when they are heated or cooled?
- What is evaporation and condensation?
- What is the water cycle and how does it work?
- What happens to the speed of evaporation when the temperature increases?

**Horizons:** Our Horizons topic, in Year 4, for this half term is *The Romans* where we will explore the following key questions:

- What was the Roman Empire?
- How did the Romans invade Britain?
- How did life change in Britain after the Roman invasion?
- Who was Boudicca?
- What technological advances did the Romans bring to England?
- Why was Hadrian's Wall built?
- How are we able to uncover the truth behind Roman life in Modern Britain?
- Why did the Romans withdraw from Britain?

## **Year 5**

**Reading:** Year 5 are currently reading a narrative called *Spy Master* by Jan Burchett. They will answer questions about this text in order to assess their understanding of what they have read.

**Writing:** Year 5 will be applying their knowledge of sentence structures and vocabulary to write an opening to a spy narrative, a biography linked to a key figure during Tudor Time, an information text on The Tudors, a formal letter and remembrance poetry. They will identify the key features of each of these genres and use these features to write an independent piece.

**Maths:** At the beginning of the year, children in Year 5 developed their understanding of the number system and place value and began to work with values up to 1 million. They have consolidated skills in the use of formal addition and subtraction and used these skills within a range of contexts. More recently, they have developed their use of formal methods to multiply and divide and will be moving on to data analysis in the next half term.

**Science:** This term, Year 5 will be learning about 'Material Properties and Changes' and will learn the answers to the following key questions:

- Which everyday materials can be grouped together based on their properties? (Revision from KS1)
- Why are certain materials used for specific purposes?
- How do everyday materials respond to conductivity (electrical and thermal) and magnets?
- What are states of matter? (Revision from Year 4)
- Which materials dissolve in water to form an aqueous solution and how can a substance be recovered from a solution?
- How does filtering, sieving and evaporating separate mixtures?
- What is a reversible change?
- What is a non-reversible change and why does this sometimes result in the formation of new materials?

**Horizons:** Our Horizons topic, in Year 5, for this half term is The Tudors where we will explore the following key questions:

- How did Henry VIII come to rule?
- What was life like for the rich and the poor during Henry VIII's reign?
- Why was Portsmouth so important to Henry VIII?
- Why did the Mary Rose sink?
- Why was the Protestant faith created?
- Which wife was Henry VIII's favourite?
- What was the wider impact of the reformation on the people of England and in Europe?
- Who ruled after Henry VIII died?
- What was life like for the ordinary person under Elizabeth I?

## **Year 6**

**Reading:** Year 6 are currently reading a narrative called *Emergency Zoo* by Miriam Halahmy. They will answer questions about this text in order to assess their understanding of what they have read.

**Writing:** Year 6 will be applying their knowledge of sentence structures and vocabulary to write a setting description set in World War 2, a formal letter of persuasion based on a character in their reading book, an information text on World War, a narrative based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and remembrance poetry. They will identify the key features of each of these genres and use these features to write an independent piece.

Maths: At the beginning of the year, children in Year 6 developed their understanding of the number system and place value and began to work with values up to 10 million. They are learning how to round numbers into decimals and have applied their understanding of formal addition and subtraction strategies across a range of contexts. More recently, they have developed their use of formal methods to multiply and divide including using their place value knowledge to multiply and divide by a power of ten. They will be learning how to use algebra and alternative number systems in the next half term before moving on to shape and geometry.

Science: This half term, year 6 will be learning about 'Light' and will learn the answers to the following key questions:

- How do we see? (Recap Y3 prior knowledge)
- What is the difference between reflection and refraction?
- What contribution did Sir Isaac Newton make to the discovery of light?
- How does the light spectrum work to enable us to see colours?
- Why do shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them?

Our Horizons topic, in Year 6, for this half term is World War 2 where we will explore the following key questions:

- What caused World War Two in Europe and who was involved?
- What was the Blitz, why did it affect us in Portsmouth and what preventative measures did we put in place?
- Was evacuation successful in saving the lives of children?
- How did the Government ensure that we didn't run out of food or supplies?
- What was life like for those on the Home Front?
- Why is remembrance so important?
- How did events outside of Europe contribute to WWII?
- How did the Second World War come to an end and what was the lasting impact on the World?

### **Uniform**

Please remember that children should be in full school uniform every day unless they have PE. Uniform includes grey trousers/skirt, a white shirt, a grey tie and black shoes. Can I please remind you that black sports shoes or trainers of any kind are **not** school uniform. Children will also need to wear the following depending on their year groups below:

Year 4 – Red Ark Ayrton jumper (available at the school office).

Year 5 – Grey Ark Ayrton blazer (available at the school office).

For PE children are expected to wear a white t-shirt and black shorts or leggings. If it is cold, they can wear a black or grey tracksuit

### **Phase Leader drop in**

I will be available on the morning of Wednesday 20th October between 9 and 9.45 for any parents in Year 4, 5 and 6 to drop in for a chat. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend school at this time and would like to discuss anything with me, please call the school to make an appointment for telephone call on this day.

## **Home learning**

Your child should have a school device and their home-learning is important in order for them to make progress after an unsettled couple of years due to the pandemic. Therefore, a homework task is set daily for them to access online. Please ensure that your child is completing this task - which should take no more than 15 minutes - on a regular basis. This can be accessed through our Seesaw programme which all children have logins to. It is an expectation that all children complete homework. Should you need a device or any of your child's logins, please see their class teacher who can arrange this for you.

## **Facebook**

Please check our school Facebook page for regular updates on what is happening in school. Each year group also has a page which is updated on a regular basis. We will be posting our nominations each week so keep a look out for your child.

## **Key Dates**

Below are the key dates for years 4, 5 and 6 that you need to be aware of:

- 19<sup>th</sup> October 21 – Year 4 visit to Fishbourne Museum
- 21<sup>st</sup> October 21 – Year 6 Parents Meeting – Residential (more information to follow)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Inset day – School closed to all pupils
- 25<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term
- 3-5<sup>th</sup> November 21 – Year 6 Residential to Kingswood

I hope that you find this information useful, thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Miss T Woods – Upper School Lead