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**Kestrels Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What a fantastic start to the term after home learning. It is absolutely lovely to have all the children back in the classroom together and reunite our class family.

**Curriculum – Spartacus**

Our project for this term incorporates History and Science.

This project will look at the history of Ancient Rome and the Roman invasion of Britain. In English, we will be focussing on the text Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit, which strongly relates to our Survival theme last term, additionally this links to our Geography area of learning, Volcanoes. In Science we will be exploring properties of materials and reversible and irreversible reactions, where we will be erupting our papier mache volcanoes we created as part of our home learning journey during last term. If your child has not yet brought their volcano into school, please could they do this.

In maths, we have begun a very exciting topic! We are learning about the census which is happening on **Sunday 21st March 2021**. The children have been looking at data from the past to decide what new facilities our area needs. We will move on to looking at national data and trends over time. To find out more about the census, please visit: [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore;

TT Rockstars <https://ttrockstars.com/>

Purple Mash [www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com)

Each child has an individual account and their own password. Please keep the passwords safe and if you do not remember them then ask your class teacher.

**Class rewards**

The children have already been working hard to earn house points and Kestrels class have voted to choose their marble rewards;

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| 150 marbles | 300 marbles | 450 marbles | 600 marbles |
| 15 minutes extra playtime  | Class games  | Hot chocolate  | Movie afternoon and treats |

**Reading books**

Children will have a reading book which they have selected themselves. We recommend that the children regularly read at home as it is a great way to cover a wide range of authors and genres. It will also allow them to understand and use a wide range of vocabulary. They should aim to read on at least four occasions in any one week for a minimum of 10-15 minutes at a time.

We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression.

Please encourage your child to record their reading activity in their reading record.

**Homework**

Our Teaching and Learning policy states;

At St Mary’s we recognise that children learn best when school and family work in partnership to promote a child’s learning and progress. This partnership includes encouraging children to practise, develop and enrich the learning that takes place in school, outside of school. Homework should not be something which leads to arguments, tears or tantrums for either children or parents.

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practise and recall things like spellings and tables, to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece of work for Maths, English and their project.

**We were so impressed with the digital literacy during lockdown, we will be enabling the children to complete their homework online. It has been added to Google Classroom and Drive. Children can complete it and then submit online rather than in their red home learning books.**

Alternatively, homework books will be sent home every Friday and should be returned to school on the following Tuesday. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems. Homework is a challenging aspect of secondary transition and we suggest the children use the remaining time at St Mary’s to develop good home learning habits

We will now also be uploading homework activities via Google Classroom for children to access and complete electronically. Children were fantastic at accessing their learning remotely and electronically during the lockdown; we wish to maintain and develop these skills.

**PE Kit**

All children should have indoor and outdoor kit e.g. shorts, House coloured t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor sessions. PE kits should be brought into school every Monday and taken home on a Friday to be washed for the following week.

Please note pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks has passed**.) Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings**. If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

We will be taking part in PE lessons Wednesday and Friday.

**Reminders**

* **Water Bottles – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. To improve the oral health of children, only water is permitted in class. If your child brings in a bottle filled with something other than water we will provide them with a cup so that they can access water during the day.**
* Snacks – Children may bring in a **healthy snack** for mid-morning break. Suitable choices include fruit, cheese, yogurt and vegetable sticks. Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.
* Absence and sickness – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhea.

**Contact**

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address:

r.rose@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as I may be busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases I will endeavour to reply to you within 2 working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office.

I look forward to working with you and helping your children learn, transform and grow.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Rose