

Leaffield C.E. Primary School

The Green, Leaffield, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 9NP

Tel: 01993 878273

Email: office.3124@leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Web: www.leaffield.oxon.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Diane Axford

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Rhiannon Abberley



Be kind, be curious, be you!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year in Rosen Class! I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. It has been wonderful welcoming our new Year 3 children into Rosen Class and welcoming back our Year 4s. We have a busy and exciting first half term ahead of us as everyone settles into their new routines and we begin our first topic, **I Am Warrior!**

Below is a little information about what we will be getting up to, along with some useful reminders for the half term.

I Am Warrior!

Our first topic takes us back to Roman Britain and the Roman Empire. The children will develop their understanding of where the Romans fit into history, discover what life was like during Roman times and delve into the exciting, and sometimes brutal, world of the gladiators!

We will also investigate the legacy left behind by the Romans and consider the question **‘What did the Romans do for us?’**

To bring our learning to life, we are very excited to be visiting **Chedworth Roman Villa** during the half term. **Further information about the trip will be sent home in due course.**

Literacy and Class Book

We will begin the year reading **Romans on the Rampage by Jeremy Strong**, which should provide plenty of laughs alongside our Roman learning!

Our first few weeks of Literacy will concentrate on getting the basics of great writing really secure. We will revisit sentences and paragraphs and spend time looking at how we can improve our vocabulary and make our writing more interesting. The children will learn how to use dictionaries and thesauruses effectively and begin exploring figurative and descriptive language.

A big focus will be helping children to become confident writers who can look back at something they have written and think, *How could I make this even better?*

Mathematics

We will continue to follow **White Rose Maths**, beginning with **place value** in both Year 3 and Year 4. The children will work on learning appropriate to their year group while developing their confidence with numbers, mathematical reasoning and problem-solving.

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Science

Our Science unit is **Food and the Digestive System**. We will explore ecosystems and food chains before looking at how changes to habitats can affect living things.

We will also investigate our teeth, discovering the different types we have, what they are used for and how we can keep them healthy. There will, of course, be opportunities for some practical scientific investigation too!

Religious Education

Our big question in RE this half term is **'How and why has Christian practice changed over time?'**

The children will explore the beginnings of Christianity and consider how Christian practices have changed and developed over time. As always in RE, there will be plenty of opportunities for thoughtful discussion, questions and sharing ideas.

Wider Curriculum

In Art, we will be exploring **Colour Theory**. The children will experiment with colour, look at how different artists use it and create their own colour compositions.

Our Computing unit will explore **The Internet**, including how networks connect, the World Wide Web and how online content is created and shared. An important part of our learning will be thinking carefully about whether everything we see and read online can be trusted.

In PSHE, our *Respecting Rights* unit will introduce children to human rights, respect, rules and democracy. We will also consider equality, stereotypes and what it means to respect the rights of others.

In French, we will be developing our French phonics and pronunciation, helping the children to become more confident when listening, speaking and reading.

Finally, our Music this half term has a rather catchy theme! Our learning will be based around **Mamma Mia by ABBA**, with plenty of opportunities for listening, singing, playing instruments, improvising and performing.

P.E.

P.E. will take place every **Tuesday with Mr Andrews**. Children should come to school wearing their P.E. kit on Tuesdays.

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Homework

Homework will be sent home every **Friday** and should be returned by the following **Wednesday**.

Please do encourage and take an interest in your child's homework, but the activities set will be based on learning we have completed in school that week and should therefore be something your child can complete independently without adult input. Homework is intended to consolidate what they have already learnt rather than introduce something new.

If your child is finding their homework particularly difficult or you have any concerns about it, please come and have a chat with me. It is much more useful for me to know that they have struggled than for homework to become a source of worry at home.

Reading and Times Tables

Please continue to encourage regular reading at home. Even as children become increasingly independent readers, reading frequently makes such a difference to their fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and confidence. Talking about what they are reading is just as valuable, whether that is discussing a favourite character, wondering what might happen next or chatting about an unfamiliar word.

Regular times tables practice is also really beneficial. Children can use **TT Rock Stars** at home for short, frequent practice sessions. **Login details will be placed in their homework books.**

Snacks, Water Bottles and Belongings

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack to enjoy during morning break. Please also send your child to school each day with a **water bottle** so they can stay well hydrated throughout the school day.

Please make sure that **all belongings are clearly named**, particularly **jumpers and water bottles**. With lots of identical jumpers and other belongings in one classroom, naming items gives us a much better chance of reuniting them with their owner!

Children may also bring one small pocket-sized toy to use at playtime. We recognise that having something small from home to play with can be helpful for friendships, play and wellbeing at breaktimes. To keep this manageable, it must be **one toy only and small enough to fit inside a pocket**.

Keeping in Touch

Please do come and speak to me **before or after school** if you have a quick question or there is something you think I need to know.

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If you would like a longer conversation, a meeting can be arranged through the school office. Messages can also be passed to me through the office, but please be aware that **responses may take up to 48 hours**.

We are really looking forward to a fantastic first half term together. There is lots to look forward to and I am sure I Am Warrior! will be a brilliant way to start our new school year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kelly

Rosen Class Teacher