

Junior Class Owl – Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Junior Class!

All the children have made a great start to the year; the Year 3s are all feeling more grown up now that they have moved into Key Stage Two, and the Year 4s are feeling very responsible now that they are the oldest in the school!

Please remember that the school day starts when the bell rings at **8:45**. The children need to be in class promptly so that they can complete their Early Work. The gate will be locked, and the register taken at **9:00**. If your child is late (arrives after 9:00), they will need to be signed in at the office.

If you need to contact Miss Riches or Mrs Rozier, please write a note in your child's Home School Communication book, arrange a meeting, or send an email to k.riches@reed.herts.sch.uk. Please note that your email may not get a response straight away, and any emails sent in the evenings and over a weekend/holiday will not be answered until the next school day.

English: We will use our Topic as a basis for much of our work in English. For example, we will be doing some descriptive writing based on a book called *Escape From Pompeii*, and we will write our own versions of Roman myths. The children will also write different forms of poetry such as riddles. The children will be expected to review, edit and improve their writing and to provide constructive criticism of the writing of others.

Reading: Children will be reading every day at school and will also take part in guided reading and comprehension activities. Please encourage your children to read at home every day and remember reading doesn't always have to be books; magazines, comics, and newspapers are also great reading material.

Spelling: Spellings will be given to the children every Friday and tested the following Thursday. This gives you and your child the option of learning them on a school night or at the weekend. There will also be regular spelling lessons focussed on specific spelling rules.

Maths: The main focus this half-term will be on Place Value, and Addition and Subtraction. Next half term we will focus on Fractions, Shape, Multiplication and Division.

Times Tables: By the end of Year 4, the children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12. Times tables will be practiced and tested regularly. Children will be completing TT Rockstars activities based on their set tables numerous times a week, both via paper worksheets and the online games. Children can access TT Rockstars and the online games from home, on a laptop or tablet.

Please encourage your child to learn their times tables and to complete Mathematics and times table activities each week.

Science: This half term, our Science topic is Forces and Magnets. The children will learn about forces in the context of pushing and pulling, and will work scientifically by investigating friction. They will investigate magnetic and non-magnetic materials. After half term we will be learning about States of Matter. We will learn about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will explore how water changes state, and learn about the stages of the water cycle.

Topic: For the first half term our Topic is the Romans. We will look at the spread of the Roman Empire, how they invaded Britain and what impact it had on life in Britain. The children will acquire and practise skills in Art (making Roman mosaics and painting pictures of Celtic and Roman warriors), in D&T (building a chariot) and in Drama (through role-playing different characters). The children will also use ICT skills to undertake related research. After half term our Topic will be All Around The World. We will be taking a closer look at where countries are located, develop our mapwork skills and learn about time zones. We will also learn about different cultures around the world.

Music: The children will be listening to and reflecting on a piece of orchestral music by Hans Zimmer and will have the opportunity to create their own piece of music using instruments and voice. All children in Y3 and some children in Y4 will have a weekly tenor horn lesson with Mr Lavelle.

French: The children will be learning basic French vocabulary each week through speaking and singing. They will be able to hold simple conversations in French, count, recognise colours and name body parts.

PE: PE lessons will be on Tuesdays. As the weather is getting colder, please make sure your child has warm clothes for outdoor PE sessions. Children need to have trainers or plimsolls in school every day to enable them to use the climbing frame. Please ensure that all of your child's clothes are named. Swimming lessons are on Wednesdays. Goggles are not permitted unless for a medical condition when a letter is required. Your child must bring a coat to school on swimming days as they can get very cold after their swim.

R.E: We will be learning how faith can be expressed through art. We will also think about what makes a good leader and find out about the leaders of some religious and faith groups.

Mrs Rozier and I look forward to another exciting term!

Yours sincerely,
Miss Riches