

Year 4 Orange Class News

10th September 2018

Autumn 2018

Welcome back to school I hope everyone enjoyed a fun filled summer. To help chase the end of summer blues away we have an exciting curriculum to keep us busy this term. We are starting with a rather volatile subject, States of Matter, which will give us plenty of opportunity to be scientists mixing different matter and seeing what happens. From explosions to making ice -cream there is plenty to discover and polish our scientific skills with. This leads us perfectly into researching and deepening our understanding of the earth and how different states of matter occur in the natural world. Learning about Volcanos and earthquakes will have us exploding towards half term.

After half term we shall look at the impact of volcanos had on human civilisations by learning about Pompeii. This will then bring us back to the UK when we consider the impact the Romans had on life in Britain with a particular focus on Exeter and a trip to the museum to help us research.

In the past home learning has been a creative challenge which could be picked from a variety of activities. We will still provide these suggestions however they will be as an added extra if you have time and a rainy Sunday afternoon to fill.

For home learning we would like to focus on the basics and this will allow the children to build routine into their week and hopefully give quality family time for the weekends without stresses about building Roman forts!!

Reading

I expect every child to read at home out loud for at least 3x 10 minutes sessions more if you can. I will set a reading challenge of the children reading for 100 hours by the end of the year, they will receive certificates for 10 hours, 25 hours, 50 hours and 100 hours. Some of this time will be reading in class, reading at home to themselves or reading to parents and family members.

Times Tables

We are using a trial version of Times Tables Rock Star which will hopefully get children excited about learning their times tables. It is web based and you can also get an app which will be free with our subscription. We are trialling it until October so your feedback would be great. It is a collection of games and challenges to help them remember. We will also be learning tables with pen and paper, children will need to practise at home their tables and every Friday will have a time challenge to see if they can improve on their last time (they will be competing against themselves not each other).

Spelling

Finally, spellings need to be part of their weekly routine for home learning. This is not to be considered a test, the last thing we want is for children to become stressed about spellings however they do need to learn them. Each child will have their own personal spelling, these will be a mixture of the Y3/4 words which they choose themselves from a list. We will also add extra words from their writing which they keep spelling wrong. They will have only 5 words a week to learn and will test themselves with their friends, when they have them secure they highlight off the sheet and choose some more. We shall learn lots of different ways to practise and the children will soon develop their preferred way of remembering them. I will also be directly teaching spelling rules and they will have time to practise in school too.

Some ideas for rainy Sundays

Experiment with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda (but be outside)	Build a volcano	Are there any volcanos in Devon?	Bubble paint mix washing up liquid with paint and blow bubble through a straw. Then lay paper on the bubbles and print the bubble picture.
Make bread and discover how yeast releases a gas which makes the bubbles in bread.	Read horrible history the Romans	Make a Roman shield	Watch a documentary on Pompeii