

Year 4 Orange Class News

Autumn 2019

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. 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 visit from a Roman Soldier to help us imagine life in Roman times.

Reading

I expect every child to read at home out loud for at least 10 minutes a day (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. This has worked as a great incentive and I have promised the children a class treat if they all get to 100 hours! I cannot stress how important reading is to help with their understanding and learning across all the subjects. I know first-hand how tricky it is to fit it all in, but please make time and build it into your routines.

Times Tables

We are using Times Tables Rock Stars to support with the learning of multiplication tables. It is web based and you can also get an app which will be free with our subscription. It is especially important for our Y4 children as they will be completing a statutory times table assessment this year which is computer based. The Times Tables Rock Stars format helps them practice and build confidence. We shall 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 best 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. We are using The Spelling Shed, which is an online learning programme to help support the children as well as pen and paper based activities. Each week they will have different spellings to learn and lots of lovely games to play. Every Friday we shall have a self - check with these words before moving on.

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 bubbles 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

I am really looking forward to getting to know both you and your children during the coming year. Any questions or queries please don't hesitate to pop in and see me or arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Marshall