

## Happy New Year!

We hope after a restful and jolly Christmas, that the children are ready to get stuck in to the spring term. We are very excited for our upcoming Mayan topic, which will be the core theme throughout the term, allowing the children to make cross-curricular links and explore new learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss your child's progress. Feel free to use the email addresses below, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Miss Boon & Miss Campling

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### The Mystery of the Mayans...

The children will immerse themselves in understanding the wonders of Mesoamerica and the history left behind by the Mayans. Towards the end of the term, there will be a Mayan workshop day enabling the children to consolidate and celebrate their learning.

Further details will be sent nearer the time.

To support the children's understanding of the Mayans, they will learn about climate zones, biomes, vegetation belts, world countries and capitals, particularly those in North and Central America.

### Homework

The children are expected to read a text of their choice at least 3 times a week. Please encourage your child to do this and discuss the text with them.

They will also complete a weekly guided reading task, which is set on the Monday and due on the Thursday. Maths homework will be set on a Friday, usually via MyMaths and will be due the following Friday.



### Dates for your diary:

**8th & 9th February** - Parents evening

**13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term

**20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February** – Inset days (Non-pupil days)

**21<sup>st</sup> March** – Mayan Day

**31<sup>st</sup> March** - Last day of Spring term

### Guided Reading

After a successful start to our guided reading this year, the children will now be looking at a new text, experiencing a different genre and author style.

The children will continue to develop their vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. The children would benefit from completing their homework independently to give us a clear view of their understanding.

However, if your child has needed help, please let us know so that we can support them in school. Each homework will be individually marked so please encourage your child to look at all the feedback and maybe celebrate some house points!

### English

The children will be writing for different purposes, often linked to our Mayan topic, and will learn to select appropriate text-features for a range of genres. These will include, explanation, narrative, poetry, recounts and a balanced argument. There will be a technical focus on sentence structure, advanced punctuation and how to link paragraphs cohesively. Handwriting and spelling will continue to be practised weekly.

### Maths

In maths we will be extending the children's understanding of fractions and decimals before introducing percentages. They will learn how to measure and calculate area and perimeter. Building on prior learning the children will draw and measure angles and use this knowledge to reason about shapes. The children will further their understanding of measure, including time and volume. Regular practise of key calculation skills will continue.

### Computing

The children will revisit e-safety and learn how to protect their personal information online.

They will learn about the different tools and features for various programs, including Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint. This will enable them to make informed decisions about the most appropriate program to use for different tasks.

### Life Skills

At the start of the term, the focus will be on how technology use can affect lifestyle, health and well-being. In addition, they will explore the negative effects of photo shopping and recognise that the media doesn't always reflect reality.

They will learn about antisocial behaviour and understand its potential consequences.

We will also be looking at healthy and unhealthy habits and their impact.

Lastly, the children will recognise the benefits of living in a diverse society.

### RE

The focus this term will be on Islam and Christianity. We will explore the five pillars of Islam. In Christianity, the children will learn about the Ten Commandments, some of the parables taught by Jesus, and the significance of these for Christians. This will then provide an opportunity to compare the five pillars of Islam to Jesus' teachings.

### P.E.

Building on previous learning in gymnastics, the children will be refining their vaulting skills and creating more advanced sequences.

For outdoor PE, the first focus will be on refining skills and tactics in basketball. These will be used to play competitive games within our year group. After this, the children will explore different activities including aerobics and skipping and use these to improve their fitness.

To finish the term, we will be practising and perfecting elements from country dances from all over the world.



### Art

This term we will be looking at frescoes and exploring the effects of different media, brushes and strokes for background and detail work. They will then work in groups to create an imitation fresco on a larger scale.

Building on their learning in Year 4, the children will develop their skills of drawing in perspective.

### Music

This term the children be exploring a variety of un-tuned instruments and using these to create their own compositions based on the Mayan Pok a Tok game. They will record their compositions using graphical notation to represent musical elements.

They will then have the opportunity to perform and evaluate their compositions.

### Science and Design & Technology

During the first half of the term, we will be building on prior knowledge of properties of materials. This will consist of learning about electro and thermal conductivity with the opportunity to investigate these through a range of experiments. This will link with our DT project where we will be designing and building a shelter suitable for an archaeologist investigating the Ancient Mayans.

