

WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Southover High Street
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1JB

Telephone: 01273 473013
Fax: 01273 470233

Email: office@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk
www: <http://www.westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk>



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Dear Parents and Carers,

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you for your excellent efforts with home learning thus far, your support has been invaluable to your children's progression in these times. In term 4, we have lots of exciting experiences on the curriculum which will be closely followed during home learning, and fully followed upon the children's return.

However, we are following a slightly different structure on the week commencing 8th March, in recognition of school re-opening and also the fact that it is STEM week, which is always an important part of the school year. In addition to completing a variety of STEM activities across the school, the focus for the first week back is going to be re-connecting as a school community, specifically with our classes, our teachers and friends. We will be engaging in a range of activities to support 'Promoting Connectedness'. This will enable children who are returning to school, and those whose classmates are returning, to feel connected as a class again. It will allow them to explore the positives of all coming back together and the opportunity to discuss any worries they may have. Our usual timetabled lessons, centred around our termly topic, will resume after this week, but we will continue to provide opportunities for the children to reflect on their feelings about what they have experienced during lockdown.

Our topic for this term Collaborative Civilisations: The Romans. We will be learning all about the Ancient Romans and the contributions they have made to the world we see today. This theme will stretch through all subjects wherever possible.

In English, we will start by focussing on *Queen of Darkness: Boudicca's Army Will Rise* to create some historical fiction based on real life Roman figures. We will then create recounts from differing perspectives, to explore what living in the time of the Romans would have been like for both themselves and the Celts who they overthrew. Finally, we will be creating non-chronological reports to detail the developments of the Ancient Roman civilisation and the key figures within. This selection of writing styles will enable us to develop our descriptive language in both fiction and non-fiction, alongside a range of grammatical features and differing writing structures, to increase our writing toolkit.

At the beginning of each lesson, there will be a short spelling and grammar input (these will appear on slides as "SPAG-tacular") to teach the children key year 4 grammar and spelling concepts and recap anything that they have demonstrated difficulty with on a weekly basis.

Guided Reading will focus on different areas: inference (figuring out how characters feel), comprehension (understanding our reading and picking out key ideas), fact finding, poetry exploration and performance, spelling definition and synonym finding. If online, there will continue to be a weekly teacher reading and thinking session. When in school, children will read with the teacher in a small group once per week in Guided Reading.

In Maths, we will be continuing with our Power Maths books. This term, we will be focussing on calculating and problem solving with fractions (addition, subtraction and finding quantities), followed by decimals (identifying tenths and hundredths and dividing to create decimals). We will continue to use the mastery approach with Power Maths, using plenty of manipulatable resources and discussion based work to assist children in developing a deep understanding of the concepts. In starters for each lesson, children will continue to build upon their arithmetic skills and times tables. Please ensure that you continue to practise

your times tables, as becoming fluent with these is extremely important for them to be able to quickly pick up new ideas and complete calculations and conversions more easily. Please contact me if you require your TT Rockstars login to be re-sent; we will be celebrating engagement with this in school regularly.

In Science, we will be exploring teeth and the digestive system this term to answer a series of enquiries: Which teeth do I have and what are they for? What organs are in my digestive system? How does the digestive system work? How do I stay healthy? We will end the term by comparing nutrition and oral hygiene to the Romans, to see how much has changed with modern understandings. In Art, we will be creating Roman Mosaics using printing and tile placement to show prominent historical figures or stories. In PSHE, we will be exploring the British Values and considering what these mean for our daily lives and choices. In Computing, we will be coding a game using Scratch, based on Roman entertainment. In P.E, we will continue to use REAL PE for the cognitive cog, alongside REAL GYM, to explore some gymnastic techniques. In French, we will be learning about dates and how to describe people's faces in the style of a traditional bi-lingual story. In RE, we will be enquiring upon how Christians practise in modern times and what Pentecost is.

As aforementioned, for the duration of any continued home learning, full resources will be available on Seesaw for all lessons and you are free to make adaptations with what you have available at home for Science enquiries, and practical sessions in P.E. and Art.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me through the office, or on Seesaw where concerns are work related. I am looking forward to seeing your accomplishments this term!

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lester
Year 4 Class Teacher