

## Year 4 Autumn Term (1st Half) Newsletter



Dear parents/carers and year 4 children,

Welcome back! I hope you've all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and to getting to know you all. We've got plenty of exciting things on the horizon: this term, don't forget... **The Romans are coming!** Gruesome emperors, treacherous gladiators and deadly volcanoes are just a hint of what's to come.

During the first half term, we'll be bringing our learning alive by visiting the British Museum on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. In Geography, we will be building on our previous knowledge of volcanoes and developing our mapping skills by locating volcanoes around the world and uncovering Pompeii, the buried city. In the second half term, we will be looking more closely at the fascinating history of the Roman Empire.

In Maths, we will begin the year by deepening our understanding of place value, specifically numbers with up to 4 digits (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones). It's vital that all students leave year 4 with their times tables memorised (up to 12x12). In addition to the emphasis we'll be placing on learning these in class, please ensure children are supported at home in learning these. We will, of course, be brushing up on our Roman numerals too!

Continuing the Roman theme, we will begin our studies in English by looking closely at a beautifully illustrated book by Christina Balit, *Escape from Pompeii*. We will then explore a range of text types, including instructional writing, newspapers and descriptive writing. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be embedded throughout the year in creative ways.

In Science we will be studying animals, including humans. We will have a close look at the digestive system in humans, learn about the different types of teeth we have and their functions. The children will look at food chains and learn to identify producers, predators and prey.

A key school value at Streatham Wells is resilience. In PSHE this half term, we will be focusing on this concept, talking about what resilience can mean for us in year 4 and how we can build resilience in ourselves. We will also discuss how to set personal targets in order to help children reach their full potential this year.

Our focus in Art will be sculpture: specifically, designing and making our own Roman face pots out of clay. After studying the use of pottery in Ancient Rome, we will practise sketching our own portraits using different media. We will then model our own clay pots before embellishing them with facial detail. In Music, Musitrax will be back for another year of exciting music lessons in which children will be learning how to play their own instrument. More information on this will follow!

Our P.E. lessons will be on Tuesday and Wednesday with Michael. If the weather is fine, this session will be in the playground, so please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear and clothing to change into for these sessions.

Homework will be handed out on Friday and expected back in on Monday. Homework books are a useful form of contact between school and home, so please feel free to leave notes in there for me. As always, reading is vitally important so please encourage your child to read at home every day. In class we will do weekly reading record checks to ensure that children are recording their reading activity at least 4 times a week.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, I'm usually available after school on Monday, Wednesday or Friday and would be pleased to chat with you.

Best wishes, Becca