

Cougars, Dolphins and Gorillas

Dear Parents/Carers

Hello and a big, warm, welcome back to school and to the start of another fantastic and exciting term in 2011!

Topic

This is going to be a very exciting term for the children, and they have returned very enthused about starting on this term's topic - The Romans! To enhance the children's knowledge and understanding, wherever possible, we will attempt to arrange activities to support the classroom learning. This term that will include, Year 3 and 4 embarking on their own enterprise scheme by selling their own handmade authentic Roman style, mosaic placemats.

Literacy

To further support our topic work, we will be linking our Literacy theme to 'The Romans' where appropriate. This will include a variety of narrative story writing, starting with stories about famous Romans such as Romulus and Remus. We will also be studying explanations including: instructional text, reports, and non fiction based texts. As well as this we will be looking at Poetry writing, where we will be exploring the form of poems.

All children will be encouraged to read both fiction and non-fiction text and complete reading tasks to aid their comprehension skills. This will be part of their weekly homework.

Numeracy

All children will be encouraged to learn their tables to a confident level and we will continue the table record cards. A reminder that quick, mental recall of times table facts has a huge impact on children's ability to access the maths curriculum.

Wherever possible, we will endeavour to teach maths through real life context and provide opportunities for the children to apply their learning in

other subjects such as interpreting data and data logging in science. Place value, number sequences, addition and subtraction are just some of the areas we will be focusing and expanding on this term.

Homework

To support our children further with their weekly homework, each Friday we will spend half an hour in the morning reviewing the previous week's homework and then set the next week's work. This should provide the time required to discuss the homework so all children know what is expected of them.

Each week they will be given some spelling homework which will involve them carrying out a spelling activity linked to what they have learned in class. Their knowledge of spellings will be assessed every Friday through a range of strategies such as dictation, quizzes and games. In addition, pupils will be given Numeracy and Literacy homework and some project work which they can complete over a longer period of time.

This term, however, we would ask that homework be handed in no later than Thursday; this is so we can get the homework books marked and given back for the following day's homework to be given out.

Many of the parents of children in Cougars' class will already know that last term we launched 'Fronter', Nottinghamshire County Council's learning platform. We will also be launching this in Dolphins and Gorillas very soon, so please look out for further information coming to you over the next two weeks.

Finally, a big thank you to those who have already volunteered their support in school with reading, swimming and library visits. If you would like to offer your services we are always happy to see new faces so please pop in and let us know.

Many thanks

Mr Fry

Miss Sillitto

Mrs Wilkinson