

## **Juniors at West Chinnock Autumn 2020**

It has been so good to be able to welcome everybody back to school and we have had a good first week. The newly painted classrooms and extra space have been a real bonus. The children have been brilliant and are clearly happy to see their friends. We are pleased to have two new pupils, Henry and Charlie Chard, in Year 5. Year 6 pupils, as expected, have been extremely helpful and responsible.

The aim of this letter is to give you an outline of the topics we are covering this term, as well as providing information about class routines.

### **History and Geography**

Much of our work will be linked to our main themes of 'The Romans' and 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. We will be investigating the growth of the Roman Empire and the Roman army as well as the Roman way of life. Year 5 and 6 will also be studying the eruption of Vesuvius and the remains found at Pompeii and we will look at the work carried out in disaster zones by the charity Shelter Box.

### **Science**

Year 3 and 4 will begin with work on 'Rocks', which will link in well with volcanoes topic. We have been looking at the structure of the earth and will talk about the different ways in which rocks are formed. We will then be making simple electrical circuits and designing burglar alarms, as well as talking about safety. Finally, this term we will compare the properties of solids, liquids and gases and will link this to the water-cycle.

Year 5 and 6 will begin with 'Properties and Changes in Materials' which we will link to Volcanoes and the formation of rocks. They will use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how solutions can be created and mixtures separated, devising, performing and evaluating their own experiments. Our study of 'The Earth in Space', will also be linked to our work on the structure of our planet. Towards the end of the term, they will be creating electrical circuits, comparing and giving reasons for the performance of different components.

### **Maths**

We are following the White Rose scheme for maths. All year groups will obviously be working towards the targets set for their own year group. However, the main focus this term, for all the children, is on Place Value and the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Year 5 and 6 will be spending some time on Fractions and Position and Direction.

Everybody should have a log on for TT Rock stars and Mathletics, which are online learning platforms. If you need a password, please contact us. Each week we will allocate some time to learning, applying and assessing times tables. On Wednesdays, we will send some work home to support the learning of tables at the appropriate level for your child.

### **English**

During the time away from school, we appreciate children's reading levels will have changed. Mrs. Hart has been working to ensure children have appropriate reading books. To reduce the number of books coming in and out of school, we suggest that the more confident readers, with longer books, have a reading book which they keep at home and one for in school. We have borrowed a box of modern fiction for the older children, so they have new texts available in class. Those with shorter books will be given enough to read for the week. They need to have their reading books in school every day. We will collect them in on a Friday and 'quarantine' those books over the weekend.

It is helpful if you can write in the reading logs when you hear your child read. We will collect reading logs on a Monday morning, so we can monitor their progress. At home, we would like the children to try and read to you 3 times a week.

Spellings will be set on Friday and tested the following Friday. We are using resources from the Westover Green Scheme and Spelling Shed.

Year 5 and 6 have started planning a letter about possible improvements to the facilities at the recreation ground in West and Middle Chinnock, which will be sent to the local committee in charge – one reason we went for a run on Wednesday!

Year 3 and 4 have begun to look at stories, poems and jokes written by Allan Ahlberg. We will be creating our own characters and a play script.

### **Art and Design Technology**

We will begin this term by creating our silhouettes which we will fill with drawings summarising the things that are important to us. In addition, we will sketch our self-portraits from side and front perspective.

The fantastic illustrations in various books by Michael Foreman will inspire our own water-colour paintings.

As the term progresses, much of our work will be linked to our main themes of 'The Romans' and 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. This will include creating volcano landscapes using mixed mediums, making clay candle holders and designing models of Roman buildings.

## **Computing**

We will explore programming by designing, planning and creating games with varying degrees of complexity linked to our main topic of 'The Romans' and 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'.

For 'Multimedia' we will create an e-book of information related to our topic. E-safety will regularly be discussed and the children will learn how to stay safe when working online.

## **Homework**

There won't be any homework for the first two weeks of term. It will then be set on Tuesdays and is due in the following Monday. Alternate weeks will be English and Maths. If you feel the homework is too long, or your child is struggling with it, please write a note in the book, so that we can go through it in class or make adjustments for the following week.

A code for a new Google Classroom will be sent out next week as we plan to use this where we can to set work for home.

## **Games**

Unfortunately, at the moment, we are not able to do gymnastics or swimming but we will do games. Year 3 and 4 are timetabled for Wednesday and 5 and 6 for Thursday. However, it is helpful if they have kit in school all week. Once clubs start, they can use their own kit e.g. football strips and sweatshirts. The weather will be turning cold and children can wear tracksuit trousers, jumpers, hats and gloves.

Please could children have coats in school every day, even when it looks fine in the morning.

If you have any queries or concerns, however small, we are always happy to talk to you. With the current need to observe social distancing, we would like you to contact the school office and we will call you back or arrange an appointment.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs. Herbert and Mrs. Holbrook