



## Venus Spring Term Learning Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely break with the children and have all had a wonderful start to 2025! The children have come back to school raring to learn and I am excited to see all of the progress we make this term. As before, I (Miss Swift) will be teaching on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Pretlove will be teaching on a Tuesday. We are lucky to have Miss Forrester supporting us every morning and Mrs Preen twice a week in the afternoons.

We have lots of fantastic things planned this term and I hope that the children will continue to be just as enthusiastic to tell you all about their learning as they have been previously (please do continue to send in their learning and adventures at home to me on Dojo so that we can celebrate these as a class).

Our Geography topic this term is 'Settlements' and the children will be able to identify good places to settle. In Science we are studying 'Animals Including Humans' and 'Living Things and Their Habitats' where we will be looking at the digestive system and then classifying living things. In History we will be learning about local landmarks and how Devizes has changed over time. In Art with Mrs Pretlove the children will be studying 'Recycled Art' and in DT they will be making bread! I am very excited to see all of their hard work and creations.

The children worked fantastically in English last term and should be incredibly proud of the writing which they produced. Our English lessons will continue to follow the same structure, where we spend the first lessons becoming immersed in our vehicle text, then analyse an example text before planning and writing our own pieces which we can display for you to read. Our vehicle text will be 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and our first outcome will be to write a 'Myth Narrative' and then later in the term we will be writing an 'Information Guide'. After Half Term we will read 'The Lost Happy Endings' and will be writing a 'Twisted Narrative' and then a 'Persuasive Letter'.

In Maths, we will begin by continuing 'Multiplication and Division' from last term. It is so important for these lessons that children have a fluent recall of their times tables so any practice that they can do at home will be beneficial. After this we will be studying 'Length and Perimeter' before finishing the term looking at 'Fractions' and 'Decimals'. A busy term, but one that I am sure the children will excel in!

All of the children also take part in whole class reading lessons every day, which include but are not limited to our class reading text - 'My Friend Walter' by Michael Morpurgo. Again after Half Term we will then read 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. It is also expected that the children read frequently at home and record this in their reading records. It is very important that their reading book and records are in school every day as we have lovely volunteers who come in to listen to children read and adults in the classroom also try to listen to children as often as they can. Their reading records are also checked weekly and Dojo points are awarded for every 5 reads!

Homework including spellings and times tables will continue to be sent home on a Wednesday and will be due the following Monday. As children are now settled into Year 4 and spellings and times tables are so important, if homework is not handed in, children will spend some of their break time completing it (whilst leaving them enough time to have a run-around outside!) to ensure they are getting in their practice, and to help them develop good habits ready for moving towards the upper end of the school. Times tables are tested daily in our maths sessions after lunch, and children do their spellings every morning when they come in to ensure we can support them to progress.

At parents evening I mentioned the multiplication check that the children will take in June. This is intended for us as a school to identify children who have not yet mastered this important mathematical skill so we can give them additional support. This will incorporate times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . To best support children with this, daily practice of their times tables at home up to  $12 \times 12$  would be amazing. We will be starting on our 7s this term, but children have come across all times table facts prior to these and daily recall will help them to stick in their memories! Not only this, but times tables are such a big part of our maths lessons and children will feel much more confident in lessons if they have a fluent recall.

PE this term takes place on a Monday and Wednesday. Please have PE kits in school every day. As it is so chilly at the moment, you may wish to provide your child with a named tracksuit/sweatshirt. A plastic bag for dirty or wet clothes that require washing would also be very useful, as we will try to brave most weathers! Please label all items of uniform and PE kit, including daps/trainers.

I am very excited for this term together, it was a joy to watch the children blossom last term and if they continue to face each day with the same positive attitude and effort, there will be no stopping them! As always, if you have any queries, I am available on Dojo outside of learning time, but any urgent messages must be passed through the office to ensure I don't miss them.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Swift