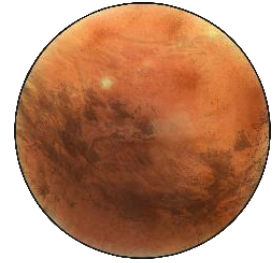


Mars Class News

February - April 2025



Our new topic this term is a history unit focused on the question: 'Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a dark age?' It will cover the following areas:

- What was Britain like at the end of the Roman period?
- Who were the Anglo-Saxons and why did they choose to settle in England?
- Where did they settle and why didn't they choose to live in the towns the Romans left behind?
- What can we learn about Anglo-Saxon life from the items they left behind? (Sutton Hoo and Staffordshire Hoard)
- How did the conversion to Christianity change the lives of people in Britain?



Class Book:

During this term, we will be reading 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shepherd.



English:

We start this half term with some grammar specific work to increase our accuracy when writing. During book week (WB 3rd March) we will be writing book reviews. This will be followed by a unit of instructional writing and then a final week on dragon poems.

Alongside learning the rules and patterns of spellings each week in school, spelling lists will be sent home for children to practise as part of their weekly homework tasks. Lists will be provided alongside the homework on a Thursday. The spelling test will be the following Wednesday.

Maths:

This half term our focus will be on fractions. This will include:

- Understanding the whole
- Partitioning fractions into wholes and parts
- Comparing and ordering fractions
- Converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions (and vice versa)
- Equivalent fractions
- Adding and subtracting fractions.

Other curriculum areas include:

- Science: Scientists and a STEM week project
- PE – Gymnastics (Monday)
- Music – Playing the Glockenspiels and music composing.
- PSHE – we will start reading the beautifully illustrated picture book 'Malala's Magic Pencil' - This tells Malala's story, in her own words, and shows children the worldview that allowed her to hold on to hope and to make her voice heard even in the most difficult of times. This will be followed by a unit titled 'Our World' and a safety week at the end of the term.
- Art – Dragon eyes (clay 3D form)
- RE - Why are festivals important to religious communities?

Supporting learning at home:

- **Reading:** Every child needs to read every day; including weekends. In Year 4, children should aim to read for at least 15-20 minutes and talk to an adult about what they have read. Children should record their reading in their reading journal. Parents are encouraged to read with children and add entries into the journal.
- **Times Tables:** Children will work on our times table challenge with a test on their individual focus table on a **Thursday**. Children will progress through the challenge at their own pace and the weekly focus will be shared via text each week.
 - Please ensure children to practise using TTRockstars (login in back of reading journal), hit the button (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>) or maths frame MTC check (<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>)
- **Homework:** Children will be set weekly homework on a Thursday which will be due back the following Tuesday. It will follow this **Thursday-Tuesday** pattern throughout the year. You may support your child in tasks but please ensure if they are struggling that they know they can ask us for help.
 - Children are welcome to do their homework in school, during playtime if they do not have time at home. We really don't want homework to be a source of stress or anxiety, only an extension of the children's learning at school. If your child is struggling with their homework, please stop and bring it in to school. An adult will go through it with them.

Useful information:

Coats: Please make sure your child brings a coat so we can go outside! Also ensure that **EVERYTHING is named!** If it isn't, we cannot return it.

PE: Children need to bring in a full PE kit to change in school. As the weather starts to get colder, we recommend joggers and a jumper/hoodie in addition to shorts and T-shirts. Please also make sure that your child has a named water bottle. In Spring two, we will have PE on a **Monday**.

Key Days

Monday – PE

Tuesday – Homework to be handed in

Wednesday – Spelling test

Thursday – Times Table test

Thank you in advance for your continued support,

Karen Gardiner, Jayne-Ann Dilleigh and the Year 4 team

Recommended Reads from the children:

