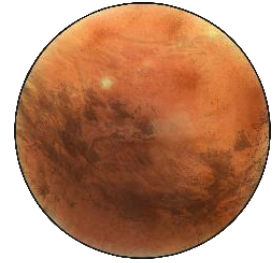


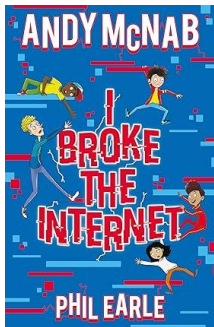
# Mars Class News

November - December 2024



Our new topic for this half term is the history topic, 'The Romans'. Within this unit, children will answer the following key questions:

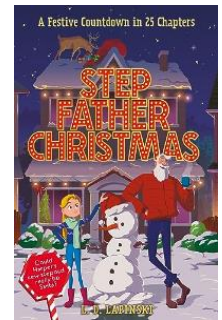
- Who were the Romans and why were they so powerful?
- How and why did the Romans invade Britain?
- What was the reaction to the Roman invasion from native Britons?
- What did the Romans achieve?
- Why was Hadrian's wall built?
- Why did the Romans leave Britain?
- The Roman impact – why are they remembered?



## **Class Book:**

During November we will finish the book, 'The day I broke the Internet' by Andy McNab and Phil Earle.

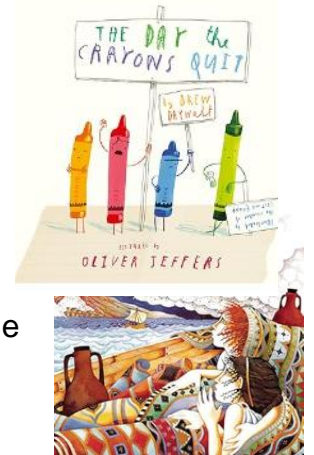
In December, we will get into the Christmas Spirit with the chapter a day book, 'Stepfather Christmas' by L.D. Lapinski



## **English:**

Children will write persuasive letters inspired by the book 'The day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. They will then write setting descriptions and a short story based on the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit.

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 with the homework on a Thursday with the spelling test the following Wednesday.



## **Maths:**

Our main focus for this half term will be calculations, including:

- The column method for addition and subtraction (including exchanges)
- Multiples of 3,6,9 and 12
- Multiplying and dividing by 0 and 1

Children will also learn about area (both counting squares and measuring length)

Children are expected to know their times tables, up to 12 x 12, by the end of year 4. Please see the additional letter about our Year 4 times table challenge on the class page.

### **Other curriculum areas include:**

- Science: Living things and their habitats
- PE – Fitness (Thursday) and Handball (Wednesday)
- Art – Mosaics (linked to the Roman topic)
- Music – Christmas songs
- PSHE – Relationships
- Computing – Data logging
- DT – Seasonal stockings (taught in the final weeks of term)
- French – will begin again on Wednesdays (Taught by Mrs Schumann)

### **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 Autumn two, we will have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**.

### **Key Days**

Tuesday – Homework to be handed in  
Wednesday – Spelling test  
Thursday – Times Table test  
Wednesday and Thursday – PE days

Thank you in advance for your continued support,

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