



YEAR 4

February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of our new term and the beginning of the final half of the year.

# Our Topic

# Term 4: The Mayans

Children will learn about the Mayans in our topic lessons and about the different states of matter in our science lessons.

# Maths and English

In maths lessons, children will be learning about: the four basic operations, bar charts, fractions and area. In order to support your child, you could talk to your child about the maths they are learning, identifying bar charts in the real world and what data they present, see where fractions are used outside of school and measure the lengths and widths of rooms at home to compare the area of each. Who really does have the biggest bedroom?

It would really support your child if they were confident with their times tables. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term your child needs to learn up to the 7x table.

# x2 x10 x5 x4 x3 x8 x6 x9 x7 x11 x12 p1

In English, we will be learning about: explanation texts, diaries, newspapers and stories. In order to support your child, you could look at explanation texts and what is similar about each of them, look at stories and how the authors develop settings and characters. You could also look at newspaper reports and identify common features that appear in nearly every single one.

The spellings that your child will be learning this term can be accessed through our school website; it would be really useful if you could help your child to learn these spellings.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day and ask them questions about what they are

reading at every opportunity. We aim to change books regularly.

Your child should bring a water bottle to school. Please ensure the bottle is clearly named and only contains water.

# <u>PE</u>

Doves and Magpies have PE lessons on Tuesdays and Fridays. Skylarks have PE on Thursdays and Fridays.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit in school every day. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt and plimsolls. Every item needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day. Kits will be taken home to be washed at the end of each term. No items should be taken home during the term. Children who attend sporting clubs should bring extra kit so their PE kit can stay in school.

# **Homework**

Homework is set on a Thursday and will continue to support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities as well as reading, some spelling investigations and multiplication facts. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible.

# **Important Dates**

26.02.19 – 04.03.19 - Book Fair 6/7/8.3.18 – Y3/Y4 road safety workshops 7.3.18 – World Book Day 5.4.19 – Last day of term 4 23.4.19 – First day of term 5



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# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

Key things that parents can do to support their child this term related to things they will be learning about are:

- suggesting your child reads newspapers
- keeping a diary
- talking about solids, liquids and gases and how matter can change from one to another (water can easily be seen in all three states)
- pointing out the different stages of the water cycle that we see
- producing a poster explaining how to save water
- making hot chocolate together! The Mayans were one of the first people to eat chocolate and they even made a version of hot chocolate. Try following the recipe

attached and then write about how nice it was or how you think it could be even better! Please note: adult supervision is required.

- designing and making a Maya mask like the ones attached
- making a rain gauge following the instructions in this video: https://www.google.co.uk/search?biw=136 6&bih=673&ei=1a9mXP7jN4\_dwALVgoy4D Q&q=make+a+rain+gauge+ks2&oq=make+ a+rain+gauge+ks2&gs\_l=psyab.3..0j0i22i30.5124.9807..9929...0.0..4.37 4.4243.0j7j8j4.....0...1..gwswiz.....0i71j0i67j0i131j0i10j0i22i10i30.QB HQuuogMrE&safe=active&surl=1#kpvalbx= 1&spf=1550233568669

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Step 2. Heat the milk slowly in a small pan on the stove (or in a microwave) until it is bubbly and frothy.





#### Top Tip!

If you want to make your hot chocolate more authentic, then use cacao (dark chocolate) and pour it back and forth between two mugs to make it frothy. Depictions on vases show us that this is what the ancient Maya did!