

# Autumn 2017

Dear Parents and

Carers,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable time over the summer break. I have an exciting term planned for your child and hope they will enjoy learning through the varied experiences we are going to have. We are very lucky to be joined in our class by a School's Direct Associate Teacher, Mr Rogers who will be working with us until January and then again in May.

## Year 3's topics and themes

This term's main topic will be based upon the Roman Empire and the impact it has had on Britain, both in the past and today. Many areas of this topic will be cross-curricular through English, Maths, History, Geography, DT and Computing. Further maths work will be split into five blocks: Counting, Partitioning and Calculating, Securing Number Facts, Handling Data and Measures, and Calculating, Measuring and Understanding Shape.

Throughout the term we will be concentrating on improving our standards of presentation, spelling and the use of language. The children will also be encouraged to read a wide range of texts, both to improve their reading fluency and also for pleasure! I would be grateful if you would continue reading with your child for enjoyment and to ensure they are reading with understanding and fluency.

## Practical Information

The classroom door will be opened at 8.50am where the children can access an early morning activity which we encourage your child to participate in. Registers are taken at 9.00am.

We feel that it is important for children to drink water throughout the day. Therefore, children may bring in bottles of water each day so long as the bottle

has a secure lid. These should be taken home each night to be washed and refilled. Please try and name your child's bottle so that it is easily identifiable. Please also try and make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labeled with their name. Any lost property can then be easily identified.

As you will have seen in a previous letter, the school has purchased welly stores in order to ensure that pupils can access the field at playtimes and in wetter weather. Please could you send in either a pair of wellies or an old pair of shoes for your child to wear which can be put in the store for your child to access. This footwear will need to be labeled with both forename and surname to ensure they are identifiable.

### PE

PE lessons are on Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their kit in school all week and kit will be sent home regularly for washing. Tracksuits may be sent in when the weather is cold. Children should not wear any jewellery during these lessons and all earrings must be either taken out or covered with micro-pore tape.

### Homework

- Guided reading homework will be sent home on the day of your child's guided reading session (the children will find out when this is) and is due in to be marked one week from this day.
- Spellings will be sent home on a Monday and will be tested on a Friday (A suggested activity will also be sent home to help your child practise their spellings in different ways).
- MyMaths homework will be posted online on Fridays and is due in by the following Friday.

If your child experiences any problems with their homework, they can always come and speak to me.

### Spellings and Times tables

When the Government changed the curriculum back in 2014, they published a list of spellings that they think children should be able to spell at different milestones throughout their education, eg, end of Key Stage 1 and end of Lower Key Stage 2

(Years 3 and 4). The children were tested on these words earlier in the week and they will be given the list back with those they got wrong in green. This means that they can focus on practising those for the next test. The list of spellings will be sent home within the first few weeks back for the children to practise as they please. I recommend choosing 3-4 spellings to focus on and practise at any one time. Just spending 5 minutes each day practising spelling can really have a huge impact on their learning and progress.

Times tables are a huge part of the Maths curriculum and as the children progress through Key Stage 2, they become increasingly more important and essential for a wide range of Mathematical skills. There are a variety of different ways that the children can learn their tables such as chanting, writing them down and using online games such as Times Table Rockstars. The children will know which times table they need to work on and spending just 5 minutes on them each day will have a huge impact on their learning. Times tables will be tested at 2-3 weekly intervals.

My door is always open before and after school; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

I look forward to a fabulous year working with you and your child.

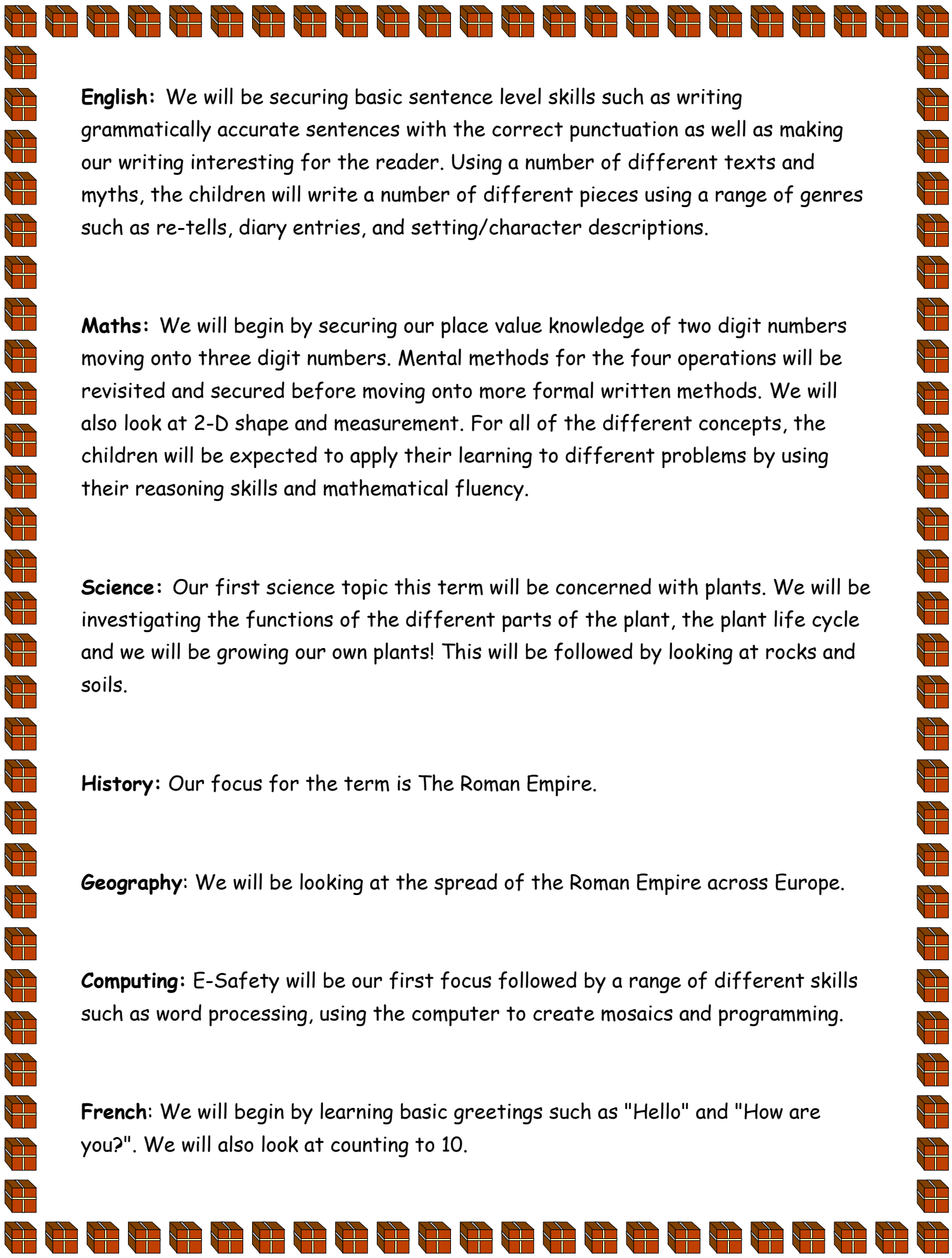
Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bailey



The Romans



**English:** We will be securing basic sentence level skills such as writing grammatically accurate sentences with the correct punctuation as well as making our writing interesting for the reader. Using a number of different texts and myths, the children will write a number of different pieces using a range of genres such as re-tells, diary entries, and setting/character descriptions.

**Maths:** We will begin by securing our place value knowledge of two digit numbers moving onto three digit numbers. Mental methods for the four operations will be revisited and secured before moving onto more formal written methods. We will also look at 2-D shape and measurement. For all of the different concepts, the children will be expected to apply their learning to different problems by using their reasoning skills and mathematical fluency.

**Science:** Our first science topic this term will be concerned with plants. We will be investigating the functions of the different parts of the plant, the plant life cycle and we will be growing our own plants! This will be followed by looking at rocks and soils.

**History:** Our focus for the term is The Roman Empire.

**Geography:** We will be looking at the spread of the Roman Empire across Europe.

**Computing:** E-Safety will be our first focus followed by a range of different skills such as word processing, using the computer to create mosaics and programming.

**French:** We will begin by learning basic greetings such as "Hello" and "How are you?". We will also look at counting to 10.

**PE:** Our focus will be dance, cross country and gymnastics.

**RE:** Our focus will be Christianity.

**Art:** We will be looking at mosaics.

**DT:** Linking to our Roman topic, we will design and make our own catapults.

