



Newts Newsletter Spring Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Newts Class and Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely and restful break after such a busy Autumn Term. Thank you for the kind gifts and Christmas wishes at the end of last term. Both Mrs Adams and I are excited to welcome back the children and we are looking forward to introducing our new topics to the class.

This term our topic will be **The Aztecs** and we will be looking at the reign of the Aztecs and life in the Aztec Empire. The children will develop a chronological understanding of this period and study daily life and customs during this time by completing historical enquiry. Our topic will also focus on The Americas. We will link this to a study of South and North American portrait artists in Art and Design and the Geography of South America. Our class books this term will be 'Time Travelling Cat and the Aztec Sacrifice' by Julia Jarman and 'Aztec Empire' by Louise Spilsbury.

PE lessons will be on **Monday** and **Tuesday** (please come into school wearing PE kit on those days). Please note that Year 4 children will be participating in swimming lessons on a Tuesday as their PE lesson until February half term.

Homework grids will also be sent home, which include a variety of tasks based on learning covered this half term. Children can either choose one task every couple of weeks or spend longer completing a bigger task. Homework is not compulsory but there will be rewards for those children who do engage in them. The children will be given a homework book to complete the tasks, in which they bring in and share with the class. We will share, celebrate and give feedback to children at the end of each half term.

Children will be given a homework planner to record their home reading and weekly homework tasks.

The expectations are as follows:

- Read for at least 15 minutes daily*
- Login to Times Tables Rockstars for at least 5 minutes twice a week*
- Complete 2 x activities in their spelling booklets*

Please record all homework in their homework diaries- write down the reading that they have done on the right-hand side of the page and record which days they completed TT Rockstars on the left-hand side, along with your signature. We will check the diaries every Friday and if children have completed the above, they will get extra break time.

Children may bring in a pencil case which could include a pencil, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, ruler and colouring pencils. Please ensure that this is a suitable size for the classroom and not overflowing with items as it can often become a distraction for the children.

The following page shows the different learning that will take place over the Spring Term.

Spring Term 2024

	Spring 1	Spring 2
English	<i>Time-Travelling Cat and The Aztec Sacrifice</i> – Julia Jarman Poetry Structural Poems Playscripts	<i>Aztec Empire</i> – Louse Spilsbury Non-Fiction Recounts Narrative Science Fiction
Maths	Multiplication and Division 4-digit by 2-digit Fractions Multiplying fractions by integers	Decimals and Percentages Perimeter and Area Statistics
Science	Light	Living things and their Habitats
RE	Christianity and Islam How has belief in God impacted on music and art through history?	Christianity What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?
Computing	Data and Information Flat-file Databases J2data, Microsoft Excel	Programming Quizzes in Scratch
PSHE	Keeping myself safe	Rights and responsibilities
DT		Textiles Fabric shapes
Art	Portraits from different cultures Frida Kahlo: Mexican Landscapes and Artefacts Elizabeth Catlett/ Kehinde Wiley: African American Experience	
History	The Aztecs What enabled the Aztecs to be successful and what contributed to their eventual downfall?	
Geography		The Americas Enquiry: Why are some areas of the Americas more populated than others?
PE	Basketball (Year 5) Hockey (All) Swimming (Year 4)	Dance Netball
French	Numbers, calendars and birthdays	Weather and the water cycle
Music	Exploring key and time signatures How does music improve our world?	Introducing chords How does music teach us about community?

I look forward to a busy and productive term. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Barden