



Spring Term 2018 in Rowan Tree Class

The students of Rowan Tree Class have returned after the Christmas holidays with energy and enthusiasm. Which is just as well because the busy pace continues with students now going swimming every Tuesday. Much of our work this term will link to our whole school topic "Power" with links made across curriculum areas, as outlined below. We focused a lot on teamwork last term as year 3 settled into their new role as KS2 students. Now our attention turns to resilience, perseverance and independence – powerful skills indeed!

In History we will be learning all about the Romans. Ms McGahey will introduce Year 3 to this historic Empire by exploring areas of Roman life and specifically the legacy they have left behind. We will look at the way the Romans used power, in its many different forms, to their advantage. Year 4 learnt a little about the Romans last year so we will be developing our understanding further by exploring specific systems of power, such as how they developed their towns and villages into large powerful cities and how they pioneered systems of government and politics, which we still use today.

In Geography, the children will find out about countries of the world, especially within Europe. Year 4, in particular, will draw links to History by exploring the impact the Romans had on changing the landscape and borders of Europe. Weather permitting, we will continue to participate regularly in Outdoor Education, where we look closely at our environment. It is a wonderful chance for the children to explore the power of nature as winter clicks over in to spring and the natural world wakes up again.

To link to our Romans topic, some of our Literacy classes will be exploring Roman mythology. As part of a broader study of Myths and Legends, we will look at the power of stories to explain history; teach us lessons; and provide escapism and entertainment for the listener or reader. Spellings, taken from the Year 3 /4 statutory spelling lists, will continue to be issued each Tuesday to be tested the following Tuesday. We will be aiming to equip students with the ability to use powerful vocabulary and literacy techniques every chance we get.

Our Maths carousel continues this term with Mr Jones investigating decimals and fractions, whilst continuing to develop the children's understanding of place value. We will also continue to develop skills in the four rules of number; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, through formal methods and problem solving. As well as all of this, they will consider shape, data handling and time, with a fair few Roman Numerals thrown in for good measure as we work through our History topic.

As scientists, the children will explore forces and magnets, through testing and investigations. This will link to work they'll be doing in Design and Technology where they will explore, design and make moving toys, powered in many different ways.

Mr V will continue to visit on Wednesday afternoons to build on the recorder skills established last term. James and Frances will be pushing their musicians on as they continue to become proficient in their chosen instruments.

Just a reminder that it is essential for all children to be reading regularly at home (we encourage daily) and students have been issued with new tasks for completion in their blue homework books, which will be reviewed every Monday.

We hope that your child will continue to enjoy their time in Rowan Tree Class.

Mr. Jones, Ms. McGahey and Lorraine Sheldrake