

# Parent Curriculum Meeting

Year 4 Spring Term  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023



# School Vision and Motto

At Barley Lane Primary School, it is important that we all work together to ensure that everyone feels happy, safe and ready to learn.

## Our School Motto

**B**elieve in yourself, **L**earn together, **P**ersevere and **S**ucceed





# Meeting Outline

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Spring Curriculum Topics and Big Question
- 3. English
- 4. Maths
- 5. Science
- 6. Foundation Subjects
- 7. Communication
- 8. Questions



# Spring Curriculum Topic

## Spring Topic: Revolutionary Romans

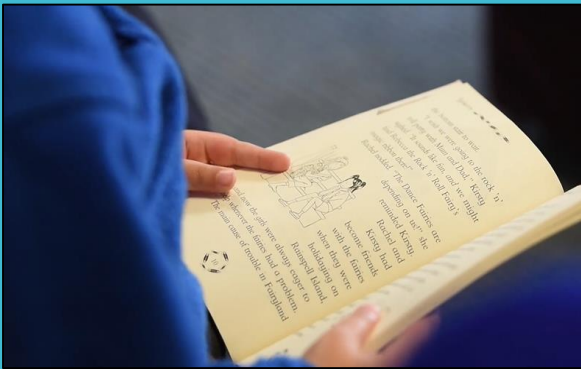


Big Question:

‘How many people does it take to  
change the World?’



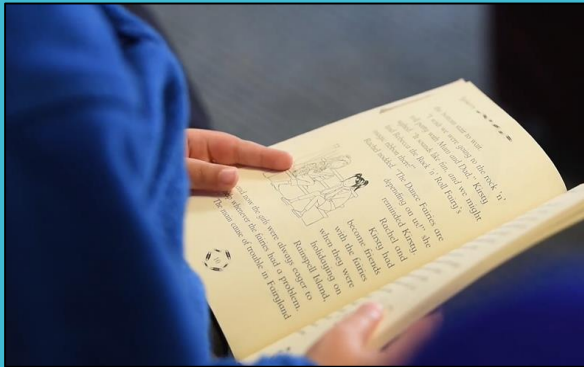
# English (Writing)



- ❖ Our key teaching text this term is 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies. This is a story about a young girl who decides to make a change in her city. We will be exploring this theme of change by also exploring biographical writing about inspirational figures like Nelson Mandela and Greta Thunberg
- ❖ We have chosen these to fit with our big question about changing the world as 'The Promise' is about helping the environment. We will be writing and performing some speeches about climate change where we will really look at persuasive writing but also intonation when public speaking.
- ❖ Lots of valuable extended writing tasks can be achieved through these texts:
  - narrative and descriptive writing (including grammatical features such as relative clauses and using different forms of parenthesis)
  - writing in a different 'voice'; writing a sequel;
  - exploring diary entries and monologues
  - Exploring opportunities for non-fiction as well including a biography of an inspirational figure.
- ❖ Handwriting practice is important and will be formally practiced each week in line with the Barley Lane policy.. Spelling will also be a priority with homophones continuing to be a key focus (e.g., there, their and they're)
- ❖ In our assessments writing is the area which the children need to improve most in. It is important that they practice writing at home (maybe through writing a diary) and they need to try and apply their learning in their writing homework.



# English (Reading)



- All the key reading skills can also be taught through these texts, e.g., looking at themes that are present in the book; using retrieval, inference and deduction skills to profile characters, considering the author's use of language and structure and retrieval of information. Reading will be a priority and children will be actively encouraged to read across a range of genres and authors (including picture books hence the use of 'The Promise.')
- This term we want the children to make more connections between books.
- All our texts lend themselves well to the teaching of aspects of the RHE curriculum, e.g., exploring how we treat people who are different to us and how we need to respect people from all different backgrounds and societies. There will therefore be lots of opportunities to explore diversity from these texts. When reading 'The Promise' we will also be exploring climate situations in different countries.
- Some children will continue to use Lexia which is a great tool for becoming more confident with reading. Children access it at school but it only becomes truly effective when used regularly at home as well
- Reading is the key to succeeding at school as it opens up the whole curriculum.

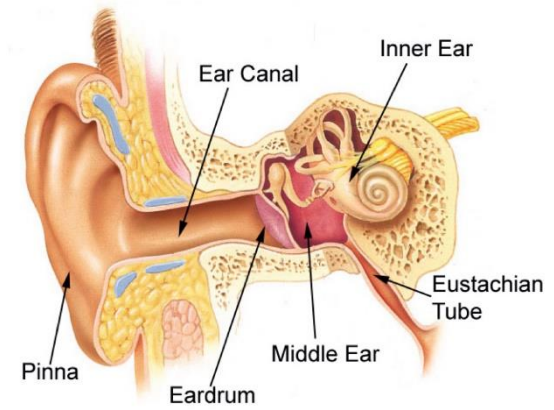
# Maths



- ❖ At the beginning of the term we will be working on multiplication and division. This will involve recapping their timestables. We will also be beginning to look at formal methods for these two operations. We will teach these slowly to ensure the children understand each step of the method.
- ❖ We will also begin applying this knowledge to other areas of Maths.
- ❖ We will explore the three main branches of Maths: fluency (simple arithmetic-based questions); problem solving (worded questions) and reasoning which is where children apply different areas of Maths to questions such as 'odd one out' and 'always, sometimes, never.'
- ❖ Towards the end of the term the children will begin to be exposed to fractions and decimals. This will involve looking at equivalent fractions, calculating with fractions and finding a fraction of a quantity. With these two concepts we will provide the children with visual and concrete ways of approaching them e.g. using food to help them understand fractions
- ❖ Children will be working on giving verbal and written explanations for their mathematical thinking ensuring that they use the correct and diverse mathematical vocabulary.
- ❖ We will be spiraling back to their topics from year 4 and building on their existing knowledge. In starters, we will look to introduce some of their summer term topics which are often less explored due to other commitments in the last term.
- ❖ Practice in arithmetic will be a key focus because this centers around using formal written methods confidently. In Year 4, the children will take the National Timetables test in June. They will have 25 questions about all Timetables up to  $12 \times 12$  and therefore this will be pivotal knowledge for the children to practice and develop. Questions will largely center on the 6, 7, 8 and 9 timestables. It is important they practice inputting the answers on the computer as we are finding that this is what is hindering some of the children's scores.

# Science

## In the spring term, the key science topics are sound and electricity:



- ❖ In Science, we will be using a mixture of experiments, theory and observational work to explore sound and electricity
- ❖ For sound, we will be exploring vibration by playing around with a range of instruments. Through experiments, we will delve into key terminology such as pitch, tempo and volume. For electricity, we will be exploring the scientists who pioneered electricity. We will also be exploring electrical circuits through lots of practical experiments and scientific drawings.
- ❖ As with all subjects, we will have a high expectation of their scientific vocabulary. For example, when we look at sound one of the first activities will be clarifying the key vocabulary.





# Foundation Subjects



## Art and Design and Technology

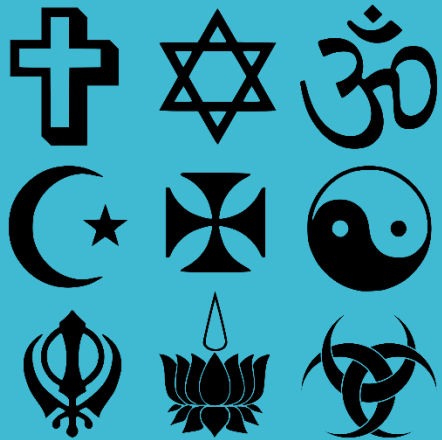
- In the first half term, we will be looking at art connected to climate change and looking at how we can use recyclable objects to create art
- Explore modern and diverse artists who work in the field of art connected to climate change.
- In the second half term, we will be looking at art movements that changed the world including the Harlem Renaissance, the Italian Renaissance and exploring cutting edge artists working in the world today.



## History

- Who the Romans were and how they were able to take over Britain. Exploring their Italian background and how much that played a role in their lives.
- Key Roman leaders including Septimius Severus, an African leader who was well-respected by his people.
- Looking at Roman culture including their use of organised warfare and how they had progressed from the Celts.
- We will be looking at some key geography targets by exploring Italy and some of the trade routes that the Roman Empire had.
- With the Big Question in mind, exploring what the Romans did for the World by exploring all of their innovations including central heating, better housing, roads and architectural features.

# Foundation Subjects



## R.E – Inspiration

- Looking at inspirational figures in religions beginning with a specific focus on Christianity (exploring the life of Jesus and his teachings about living a wise life). We will also be exploring what other religions teach about wisdom and how they seek to inspire us.
- Looking at the use of religious texts as a form of inspiration,
- Exploring the lives of people who followed the example of religion to make a difference in the World.
- Exploring 'humanism' and how people choose to not follow a religion, yet still perform good deeds for the World.

## Computing

- In the first half term, children will be using Microsoft Excel to record information about the weather. They would have recorded data with measuring equipment and the final outcome will be presenting a weather forecast.
- In the second half term, we will introduce the children to blogging and how to do so safely (reminding the children of key online safety rules). The children will be creating blogs about inspirational people!

# PPA and other subjects



- We will also, of course, be doing other subjects such as PE and PSHE (of which RHE is a key part). In PSHE, our focus in the Spring Term will be exploring friendships and healthy relationships with our friends. We will be tackling issues such as peer pressure, negative emotions caused by arguments and what we can do when we are in trouble.
- In Class PE, we will be looking at fitness (circuit training). In PPA the children will be learning about invasion games and athletics.
- PPA will continue to be on a Friday so they will need to come in their PE kits on that day.
  - 4C will also need PE kits on a Monday
  - 4D will also need PE kits on a Thursday
  - 4K will also need PE kits on a Wednesday
  - 4F will also need PE kits on a Friday.
- In PPA they will also be studying French and Music.

## Communication with Parents



- ❖ Hopefully, this curriculum talk has given you an insight into key aspects of your children's learning this term.
- ❖ All Year 4 teachers are happy to talk and discuss whenever it is required.
- ❖ Homework will be provided regularly. The tasks will be available on Purple Mash but most will be completed in homework books where we will expect the same quality.
- ❖ Class assemblies will recommence this term. Dates are available on the school newsletter.
- ❖ Reports will be handed out after Half Term and the parent's evening will be just before Easter.
- ❖ Our Year 4 topic web is on the school website as a reminder of the key subject topics.

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Welcome to Barley Lane Primary School



Any questions?



**Barley Lane Primary School**