

# QUARTZ SPRING NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Happy New Year!

We are well settled into the year now and the children have an important term ahead of them. I will be expecting hard work and commitment from them.

The children will be expected to complete homework tasks and learn their times tables and spellings at home. Extra time can always be allowed for homework with a quick parent chat with me!

Some of our other topics that we will be covering are:

## Science

### DARWIN: EVOLUTION & ADAPTATION

This unit builds on the children's learning from the Year 3 Rocks unit as well as the Animals including Humans and Living Things and their Habitats units. Children will learn about variation and adaptation. They will be able to explore how both Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace separately developed their theories of evolution. They will examine the scientific evidence from plants and animals that has been gathered to support the theory of evolution.

## History

### THE MAYA CIVILISATION

The children will learn who the ancient Maya people were, and where and when they lived. They will use maps and atlases to locate Maya cities and identify countries in Mesoamerica. In addition to this they will learn about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and find out more about some of the many gods they worshipped.

The children will also learn about the Maya number system and have the opportunity to read and write Maya numbers and solve number problems. They will learn about what the Mayan people grew and ate. We'll discover the work of the explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood and have the opportunity to analyse historical pictures of the cities they discovered. And we'll hopefully learn about Chichen Itza and what it would be like to go and visit!

## Geography

### DIFFERENT CLIMATES (BIOMES/RAINFORESTS/CLIMATES/DESERTS)

The children will gain a thorough knowledge of the water cycle, coasts and rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, climate zones and biomes through applying the knowledge gained from their research in practical tasks.

Create a Biome in a Bag and a DIY 'Eden Project' with its own mini guide or poster, based on their research using maps, globes, atlases, digital mapping, websites and a possible visit to a manmade biome.

## General information

- The children have access to the water fountains at break times. If your child feels that they will need water to drink during lesson time, then they will need a water bottle for inside the classroom. I would prefer if this is a little transparent, so that we can see it's water (there's always one sneaky child trying to sneak in juice, and it makes an awful sticky mess if spilt!)
- PE is currently on Mondays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has correct PE kit:

Trainers (outdoors)

Plimsolls (indoors)

Blue shorts

Blue/white t-shirt

PE socks

Tracksuit bottoms and top (for colder weather)

Hair bobble (for those with lovely long locks!)

- Pencil cases. I would be really grateful if we can make sure that these are an appropriate size and fit into trays!
- If you need to speak to me about anything, please always feel free to catch me after school, or make an appointment through the school office.
- The class 'Golden Pass' reward this term will be \*\*\*\*\*. All children who have not lost more than 5 minutes in any given week this half term (and therefore kept all their Golden Passes) will be able to take part in the reward. It will be in the week before we break up for February half term holiday.

I look forward to seeing you at parents evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

*Miss Reid*