

Dear Year 4 parents

Welcome back. For this next half-term of Year 4, our focus moves across to Central America and back to the time of The Maya. We begin with the hook of Mayan art and end by designing packaging for a chocolhaa treat. *

Dates for your diary

School reopens: **Mon 23rd Feb**

Times Table Rock Star Day: **Wed 25th Feb**

Assessment Week: **Mon 9th March**

Parents' Evenings: **Mon 16th and Wed 18th March**

Easter Disco **Thu 26th March**

School closes: **Fri 27th March**

**Please ensure the allergy information that school holds on your child is up to date.*

Spanish

Children will learn how to tell the time in Spanish and use this to talk about routines, e.g. *Me levanto a las siete*. Toward the end of term we will look at how *La semana santa* is celebrated in Spain.

Computing

After complete an exciting unit with Mr Worth, programming Microbits with a coding tool in PurpleMash, they will take a look at how Artificial Intelligence is rapidly changing our world.

Art / Design Technology

Children will take apart some commercial confectionary packaging to see how nets are used to create boxes. They will then design and make their own packaging for a new chocolate product.

A Civilization Lost



History

Children will be studying the Ancient Maya and the rise and fall of this civilization in present day Central America.

The children will also understand how The Ancient Maya are placed chronologically alongside other civilizations they have studied from Europe and Asia with the history topics that they studied in Year 3.

English

'Rain Player' by *David Wisniewski* is our stimulus for English this half term. This mythical tale tells the story of an epic game of *pok-a-tok* played between the mortal Pik and the rain god, Chac. Focus will be on writing correctly punctuated direct speech, i.e. dialogue between characters. They will also examine how characters are described and write some lively descriptions of their own. Weekly spellings will continue so please remember those yellow books.

Mathematics

In maths, the children will be taking their first look at fractions in Year 4. They will be introduced to the concept of a mixed number, e.g. $2\frac{1}{2}$ and how to convert between these and improper fractions i.e. $2\frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{2}$. They will then revisit equivalent fractions and explore equivalent fraction families e.g. $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{4}{8}$. Finally they will add and subtract fractions with the same denominator including mixed numbers e.g. $5\frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{4}$.

Throughout we will of course continue to build times table and division fact fluency ahead of the tables check in June. A special, 'TTRS Day' on Wednesday March 25th will provide the children with the opportunity to dress up as a rock star and engage in a day of fun times table themed activities.