



Lyminster Primary School

Find Your Roar!

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January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a happy new year to you all.

The Spring term is always a good one with lots of exciting things on the way including Restaurant Wars and a trip to Fishbourne Roman Villa, but for a more detailed overview please see our Topic Web. As you know, we have a national assessment in Year 4 which will test the children's times tables knowledge. We will be doing increasing amounts of times tables work (as this is useful for the children's mathematical skills anyway). You can help your child with these by going through the times tables with them at home – they will have brought home a times tables square last term to aid them in this – and using Times Tables Rockstars regularly.

Topic: Class Country - Italy

It's class country time and Year 4 have Italy. We'll be looking at both the geography and history of this country, with particular focus on the Roman Empire. We will be looking at how Britain was affected by the expansion of the empire and what the lasting legacy has been.

The topic also influences our DT so this term as we'll be cooking Italian food. The culmination of our cookery exploits will be the Restaurant Wars. Some of you will be experiencing this for the first time, so I'd better explain. Every two years all of the classes cook dishes from their class country and present them to the parents to taste and judge. Those of you with a sense of adventure and a strong constitution can try foods from across the world and judge which you liked the most (which will be Year 4's, obviously).

Key dates for the half-term:

- **Tuesday 2nd January 2024 – Inset Day**
- **Wednesday 3rd January** – First day of the spring term
- **Friday 19th January** – Careers Day (more information will be sent out – please do contact me if you are willing to support and share your career with the children)
- **Tuesday 6th February – RESTAURANT WARS!** (more details to follow)
- **Friday 9th February** – Safer Internet Day
- **Friday 9th February** – End of half-term.
- **Monday 19th February** – First day of spring 2.

P.E.

Swimming will be continuing on Wednesday afternoons, and we will be doing dance on Mondays in the first spring term. As last year went on, we had increasing numbers of children not having their P.E. kits or swimwear. Can you please ensure that the children have everything they need on Mondays and Wednesdays.





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Things to remember:

- It's winter - please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat with them every day – they will be going outside unless the rain is really heavy.
- Your child can bring a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable) to eat at break time. In the past, some children have brought in cakes and crisps, which are not allowed as we promote healthy eating as a school.
- We have our Multiplication Tables Test this year – please help your child by practising their tables with them at home. Your support is crucial for them to succeed.

Homework reminder:

- Children are asked to read at least 5 times a week. Please encourage your child to read a variety of books both fiction and non-fiction. This will improve their vocabulary and their writing tremendously. This half-term we will focus on an author's use of language and choice of words, and how we might describe a character or setting based on what we have read. When you read with your child at home, please check their understanding of new or tricky words to help broaden their vocabulary.
- Mental magicians will be tested every week. Please ensure your child is learning these at home by regularly accessing **TT Rockstars**.
- **Children will be given homework on Thursday and it will be due in on Tuesday.** Please support your child with their home learning. I will be running a Homework Club in class every Friday for anyone who may need support with their homework and for those who have failed to complete it on time.

If your child has lost their TTRS username and password, please let us know and I will give them it again.

Year 4 will continue to come into school from **8:40 am every day except Friday, when they should arrive at 8.50 am.** We start with times tables work/handwriting from the very start of the day, so it is important that your child arrives ready for an 8:40 am start.

As always, if there are any worries or concerns, or you just want to check how your child is getting on, please do come and see me or email in.

Kindest regards,

Mr P Harrison
Year 4 Teacher

