

# Stunning civilisations

Hooray! We are back to school at last, for an adventure into the world of the Mayan civilisation. This History based topic will see us exploring aspects of Mayan society, customs and culture and will culminate in a Mayan feast at the end of term 1. Very exciting!

In our English and topic learning we shall be comparing the Mayan society with other important historical, fictional and future societies, using a range of film, textual and visual sources to inspire our writing and creative thinking. The main focus here will be on writing effective descriptions, building atmosphere and tension and exploring a range of new sentence types to heighten our reader's excitement.

Our art lessons will delve into the patterns, colours and textures of Mayan culture, using our knowledge to construct a fabulous Mayan face mask as our final piece at the end of term, whilst Computing will see us creating a maze-based game using Scratch.

In our Maths learning we will be focusing on place value, addition & subtraction, geometry and statistics, as well as improving our ability to explore possibilities and find patterns and rules in number

Homework will be given out weekly on a Thursday and will be expected back in on the following Tuesday morning. If their homework is not handed in on time, then they will be expected to miss a break time or lunchtime.

Your child will be expected to practise their times tables every week, (using TTRock stars or an agreed alternative method) as a solid understanding of their times tables can really strengthen your child's ability in Maths.

Reading at home- both aloud and to themselves- is an excellent way of increasing vocabulary and comprehension. Please encourage your child to have a book that interests/inspires them at home – if they want to bring this book to school for consistency and fluency, this is encouraged. If your child is struggling to find a book they enjoy, we are more than happy to give recommendations and advice!

Children need to remember their spelling country booklets every Tuesday to be signed off. Please ensure that you have also signed to show where they have practised that week.

Finally, 40 minutes should be spent on the topic/maths/English homework each week. We will have discussed the expectations and content with the children beforehand, so they should be able to carry this out independently, or with minimal help.

Mr Douglass and Mr Plank

**Dates:** Year 4/5  
Maths evening –  
19<sup>th</sup> September.

FOCCS disco 12<sup>th</sup>  
October

Parent/teacher  
consultations 16<sup>th</sup>  
& 18<sup>th</sup> October.

P.E. kits – need to be in  
school for Mondays and  
Tuesdays and also need  
to be taken home to be  
washed regularly!