

Term 2 sees us delve into the past to explore the incredible civilisation of the Maya. In our **topic work** we will examine the social structures, architecture and art of these great people, comparing and contrasting their achievements with those of other civilisations. Much of the work will have a **cross-curricular** feel as we explore diary writing, game playing, art and Design and Technology to really get to grips with the knowledge.

Our **English** work will be using the book 'How To Live Forever' as its central focus. Through the book, we will explore the conventions of letter writing and the need for levels of formality, constructing balanced arguments using language which foregrounds rhetorical constructs and opposition, story writing, setting description, philosophy and Art.

In **Maths**, we will be cementing formal methods for division and multiplication. We will look at interpreting remainders as fractions and also as decimals. Much of the work we do will have explanation, estimation and investigation at its core, as we attempt to strengthen our maths with deeper understanding of how we approach and process number problems. In other learning we shall also be touching on fractional quantities and equivalence.

Our **Design and Technology** will culminate in an applique piece, as we plan to produce a Maya inspired decorative cloth. In **Science**, we are going to be carrying out experiments and observations regarding the properties of materials and notions of reversible and irreversible changes. Our **RE** work has, as its main focus, this question: Was Jesus the Messiah? Our work in **PSHEE** will explore many themes, including saying no to bullying and how to recognise and deal with the notions of stereotyping. **P.E.** will be a mixture of Netball, in which we will be exploring tactics, game play and individual ball handling skills, and dance, which will be based on Maya games.

Stunning civilisations

Dates: Open
afternoon 26th
November

House Day 29th
November

Christmas dinner
17th December

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

Homework: Carrying on the focus from last term, homework is mostly for the practise of times tables and spelling. It is a requirement that, each week, your child should spend some time on TT Rock Stars in order to get the minimum amount of points or play the minimum amount of games specified by the class teacher. Fluency in times tables plays such a crucial role in the mathematical development of children and cannot be overlooked. If, for any reason, your child has not managed to do the relevant amount of work on TTRock Stars please give us notification via email or a short note. Similarly, some time each week should be dedicated to the learning of the spelling booklet your child is currently on. This can now be done on the fun learning platform Spelling Shed. When your child is ready please ensure they bring their booklet in so they can be tested; it is our aim to test each child **at least once** every three weeks. Sometimes the homework will manifest itself as 'Flipped Learning' as the children will be expected to carry out some research in order to have the knowledge required in class for another curriculum-based activity.

Reading: Please ensure that your child is reading regularly at home; this can take place as a purely independent activity, or you might choose to read with your child, sharing stories or non-fiction having and conversations about them!