



# UPPER SCHOOL Spring 2

Welcome back! We hope that you and your children had a lovely half term and are now enjoying the lighter evenings as spring is in full bloom. We are looking forward to another exciting term of learning opportunities this half term.

This half term we will be holding a Talk 4 Writing workshop for Y3-6 parents on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 9:00am to 9:40am. The workshop will explain the writing process in more detail and how we teach it at Castlefield School. In addition to the Talk 4 Writing workshop, we are holding our first whole school history afternoon where the children will use historical enquiry and skills to find out about the Victorians.

## Target Setting Day

Target setting meetings will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Please keep an eye out for your child's letter with further details to follow. We look forward to meeting with parents and carers and finding out from you how you feel your children have got on since the last target setting day.

## Homework

Your child will be set homework on Google Classroom every day. When the children log into Google Classroom, they will be directed to either EdShed or TT Rockstars for their homework. Please support your children in completing these as they provide an important opportunity to practice and embed new learning and can deepen understanding. They also give families a chance to talk about the learning that is taking place in school.

## Reading

It is very important that your child reads every day. Please remember to sign your child's book when you have listened to them read. Your child will have a reading book from school that is pitched at a level to help develop their reading. The children can also take home another book of their choice. Please read this with your child as well.

Children who read...			
Are more likely to overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities	Are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem	Are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum	Are more likely to develop empathy and creativity

booktrust.org.uk/benefits-of-reading-news

**BookTrust**  
setting children reading

# Year 4

This term Year 4 will be deepening their understanding of what life was like for a Roman Soldier in our Reading lessons, the book is called 'Roman Soldiers Handbook' and is an amusing *How To* guide for budding soldiers during the Roman Empire. I would recommend an outing to London's British museum to see their latest exhibition 'Legion' about a soldier who spent 25 years in the Roman army and there are fascinating artefacts, pieces of uniform and the letters that he sent home; the exhibition is on until June and well worth the visit.

In our Writing lessons, we will be letting our imaginations take over as we explore ideas and compose a wishing tale style narrative. Our Writing lessons have been going from strength to strength and the children are learning new writing tools and spreading their imaginative wings in their story writing!

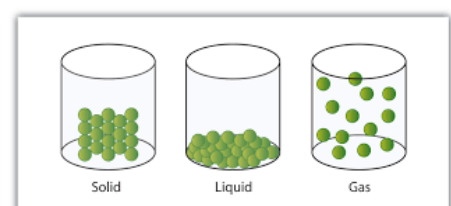
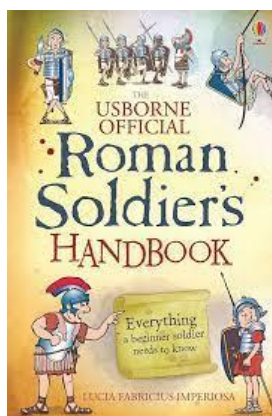
As always, the best way to support your child's writing is to have them read to you at home, and you read to them. Reading with your child not only strengthens the bond between parent and child, it also shows your child that you feel that reading is important and a valuable life skill. Children who read every day make quicker progress and have wider vocabularies.

If your child isn't 100% rock-solidly able to recite their times-tables off by heart up to  $12 \times 12$ , then this term is your chance to get them where they need to be. We have the Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term, and we are aiming for all children to get 25/25 and a certificate in assembly. Please support your child by reciting their tables with them and helping them to retain the tricky ones!

In our Maths lessons, we will be focussing on decimal numbers, money and telling the time. If your child is not yet able to tell the time on an analogue or digital clock, then this skill was taught in Year 3 and they will need to catch up at home with you. In class, we will be calculating the difference between two times and learning about the 24 hour clock. So - please ensure your child can tell the time so that they can access the work more comfortably.

In Science the children will be learning the differences between solids, liquids and gases in our States of Matter unit of work. I would highly recommend giving your child some time to explore the topic on the BBC Bitesize website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgwc96f> which has videos, information and quizzes to enhance their learning.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child to be a successful learner.



# Year 5

Welcome back! We hope you've had a lovely half term break and thank you for embracing the homework challenge! We love looking at all the creative bug hotels you helped children make! We look forward to extending these skills by making toys in **DT**!

Please continue to support your children with their everyday homework too. Short and regular practice is more effective than one long session per week. Read daily and discuss the text by asking questions and making predictions and complete Maths shed activities, which will reinforce the learning we cover in class. Aim to practice spellings twice a week and keep speed and recall of times tables sharp by practicing TT Rockstars on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We understand that sometimes tasks may not show up on some devices but we love it when children use their initiative to find alternative tasks to complete!

Our topic this term is Crime and Punishment and we are excited to go on our trip to the Tower of London to learn more about it.

In **reading** we are looking at the non-fiction book 'Crime and Punishment Through the Ages' by Grant Bage. It covers the period from the Roman times through to modern times. Our **history** topic also starts with the legacy of the Roman legal system, the similarities and differences with the Anglo-Saxon, Tudors, Victorian and modern-day systems. Do take advantage of children's natural curiosity on the subject by doing further research or reading some of the 'horrible history' books.

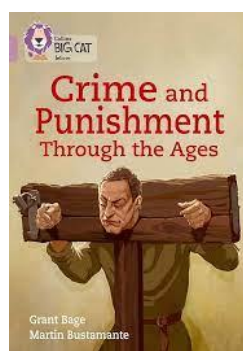
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8w3n9q>

In **writing**, our new text is a narrative called 'Alien Landings' and we will be writing imaginative stories of our own about aliens with exciting features such as time lapse and cliff-hanger endings. Please encourage your children to ask questions about what different people might think on the topic and share your ideas about what extra-terrestrial creatures and spaceships might look like, how they might move and communicate.

Our **maths** topics this term include multiplying fractions, writing, ordering and rounding decimals and finding equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. In **science**, we will be learning about forces, exploring how gravity affects life on Earth, the effects of air-resistance, water resistance and friction and how pulleys, levers and gears work. You may want to try some of these investigations at home: <https://explorify.uk/teacher-support/helpful-reads/explorify-at-home-forces>

Have a lovely Spring 2 term!

**Mrs Keys, Mrs Hill-Cornwell and Ms Drummond**



# Year 6

We hope you had a lovely half term break. There has been some wonderful holiday homework handed in, thank you for supporting your children with this.

This term, Year 6 have some very exciting learning coming up. In our history unit, we're delving into the events of World War II, setting the stage for an upcoming visit to Bletchley Park - an immersive experience into the wartime code-breaking hub. This historical exploration threads across other subjects; in computing, children are decoding the past with an in-depth look at code-breaking techniques, bridging the gap between history and technology. Meanwhile, in writing, the gripping narrative of 'Letters From the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll serves as a backdrop for the children in crafting their own suspenseful narratives set in World War II, combining creativity with historical context. Within the Year 6 class libraries, a large number of other WWII narratives can be found to be enjoyed at home. In maths lessons, children will be navigating ratio, proportion, geometry, and statistics, applying critical thinking skills to solve problems. Whilst in our science lessons we will explore classification in the natural world.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Miss Burrell, Miss Chandler and Mrs Sheehan**

