



## Learning Overview

# Summer 2023 - Sapphires

Happy Summer Term to you all - we hope you hope you are looking forward to the sunshine (eventually) and to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles. We'd also like to say how proud we are of the calm and focussed way our Year 2 children have been approaching their SATs over the last few weeks. They have a great attitude to work and have thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The SATs will be taken in small groups in very calm surroundings. We are so grateful for your support with the work you are doing at home with your children.

In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be learning this term. We hope to continue to form strong links between home and school and are always happy to discuss any concerns with you - please feel free to email us or make an appointment in school.

### DAILY ROUTINE

We have made a few changes to our timetable this term. As always, children may come into school from 8.35am, and our school day starts **promptly at 8.45am**. Reading books that need changing should be placed in the Red Box on Mondays and Thursdays. The children will start the day by splitting into year groups for either Maths or Key Skills - alternating groups until playtime. 'Key Skills' includes spellings work in their year groups on Monday-Thursday and the spellings test every Friday morning. It also includes Times Tables tests on Monday and Thursday, Mental Maths on Tuesday, and Number Bonds test on Wednesday and handwriting practise. After break we have Whole Class guided group reading and then Literacy. In the afternoon we teach the foundation subjects which include Science, Geography, History, RE, PSHE, PE and DT/art. School finishes at 3.15pm when we will lead the children into the playground. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. Due to the age of the children in our class, we would prefer them to be collected from the playground if possible, rather than on the road.

### THE CURRICULUM

#### TOPICS

We have two topics this term, running concurrently. The first is '**The Romans in Britain**'. This topic is predominantly literacy, and history but other curriculum areas will be linked to this particular theme. To provide context for the Roman Invasion of Britain we will begin this half term by completing an independent research project on the Iron Age Celts (continuing from our Topic last term) before beginning our investigation into the changes brought by the Romans. Using different historical sources, the children will learn about the way of life of the Romans and make comparisons across time periods comparing household objects, features of homes, dress, food, occupations etc. We will also learn about the effects the Romans had on our country. At some point during the topic we will be having a Roman themed day - more details to follow. We will be focussing on questioning



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and research and exploring archaeological sources. We will also be studying 'Volcanoes' for a geography unit, using four-figure grid references, map and atlas skills to locate famous volcanoes. We will be learning about the structure of the Earth; tectonic plates and the formation and structure of volcanoes; the features and impact of eruptions; thinking about why people live near volcanoes and touching on some of the ways scientists monitor seismic activity to predict and prepare for eruptions. We will be focussing on Vesuvius and Etna in Italy, Mount St Helens, as well as some other famous volcanoes such as those in Monserrat, Iceland and Hawaii.

### LITERACY

Literacy will be taught following the National Curriculum and where possible will be linked to Romans/Volcanoes. We will start by examining the plot, language and grammar of *Escape from Pompeii* and writing setting descriptions, before expanding our vocabulary and poetry-writing skills writing Volcano poems. We will be writing information texts and booklets on different elements of Roman life and imaginative recounts of Boudicca's rebellion. We will also be exploring the myths of Ancient Rome.

#### **Reading**

We teach the skills of reading during literacy, in group guided reading, whilst reading with individuals and in other curriculum areas. Daily practice is needed to improve these skills and we cannot over-emphasise the importance of reading with your child at home. As part of their homework, this should take place at least four times a week for about 10-20 minutes and independent readers also benefit from shared reading at home as they can discuss characters, themes and language in depth. Reading records are checked daily. Year 3 children are encouraged to be independent readers, but they still need to read regularly to an adult at home. We endeavour to listen to Year 2 children read their reading book once a fortnight but please don't panic if this doesn't always happen: your child is heard at least twice a week during guided group reading, which takes place every day between 9.20 and 9.45am.

#### **Writing**

The children will spend time developing their handwriting whilst learning their weekly spellings and during 'Key Skills'. We will be aiming to develop the children's formation of letters, pace of writing and overall presentation. Literacy lessons will encourage the children to write creatively and practise skills taught in previous lessons.

#### **Spelling/Phonics**

Spelling will take place daily during 'Key Skills'. During Monday and Thursday's sessions we will be practising our weekly spellings, and on Tuesday and Wednesday we will be focusing on different spelling rules. Every week your child will bring home spellings to learn, and must also be aware of the meaning of the words as well as putting them in an oral sentence. Daily practise of these spellings is part of the children's homework, and they will be tested every Friday by writing the spelling word in a sentence. We will also be focusing on Grammar and Punctuation during these sessions.



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## NUMERACY

In numeracy this term we will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt and specifically covering: mass and capacity, fractions, time, money, shape, measurement and statistics. The Year 3s will also be revisiting money and the Year 2s will have a module on position and direction. We will also have problem solving/investigation sessions.

### **Mental Maths, Times Tables and Number Bonds**

Every week your child will be tested on times tables and number bonds. Your child will be given 3 minutes to complete as many questions as possible correctly, striving to increase their knowledge of times tables facts and to improve their speed. We are also practising 'chanting' times tables and number bonds facts every day and would encourage this rote learning at home too.

### Times Tables Rockstars

Every child in the school has been issued with their TT Rockstars password, and it is part of their homework to practise their tables at least four times a week. The tables are in the following order: 10, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 7, 9, 11, 12, and include both multiplication and division facts. The program is set up to automatically move children to the next level once they have achieved sufficient fluency and speed at the level they are on. Another way to practise is a free program called 'Hit the Button' (find it easily through google search - it is part of the TopMarks website).

### Number Bonds

We also encourage practise of addition and subtraction number facts (number bonds) in the following order: 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25. Again, 'Hit the Button' is a good place to practise number bonds. The children will be given a number bonds test once a week (see above - daily routines).

## SCIENCE

In science this term we will be investigating plants from growing seeds, to naming parts of a plant and what conditions are needed to keep a plant alive. We will be looking at water transportation and the life cycle of a plant. We will be conducting experiments and setting up scientific enquiries.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the Summer Term, the children will have a 40-minute tennis lesson on Monday afternoons with Paul Evans, and P.E. is taught for an hour every Tuesday afternoon with JC Sports coaches. Please ensure that your child comes into school on those days wearing their P.E. kits. P.E. lessons are usually taught outside so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing and sunscreen for hot days. On the days when P.E. is taught, please tie long hair back and remove earrings. If your child is unable to participate in a P.E. lesson, please let us know in writing. Details of Year 3 swimming lessons will be sent out separately.



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## **COMPUTING**

The children will be taught computing by Mr Brown on Tuesday mornings. This term, for 'Programming' they will be learning about coding through sequence in music, and for 'Creating media' they will be studying digital photography and making storyboards.

## **HOMEWORK**

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills - particularly in literacy and numeracy, extend school learning, and to encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence needed to study on their own, which will prepare them for the requirements of secondary school. In Sapphires the children are expected to complete 1½ hours of homework each week, comprising of reading, times-tables practise on TT Rockstars (we monitor their weekly progress through the website) and Spellings.

If you wish to speak to us about any concerns or queries that you may have, please make an appointment to see us. We look forward to a new term with your child and making their time at Buriton Primary School as enjoyable as possible.

Thank you,

**Miss Burrough and Mrs Rose**