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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY



Autumn 2 - 2020

Dear Parents,

Wow! What a first half-term! The children have settled in well and we have so much to look forward to this half-term. We will not be allowing current circumstances to interfere with our Christmas celebrations in Year 4! There, I said the 'C' word! We will still be completing lots of festive activities and trying to make as many memories as possible! Including some Christmas baking, making cards and calendars, making decorations and some secret treats! I can neither confirm nor deny that hot chocolate may be involved!

We will be continuing to work on our Roman topic, completing our work looking at the impact the Roman invasion had on Britain. This will then lead into our Geography work based on mountains and volcanoes. Children will have the opportunity to study the Earth's structure and how this has shaped the different landscapes around the world. Children will also look at how people living near active volcanoes are impacted and what their daily life looks like, comparing that to our own.

In **English** we will be looking at the book, 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. This is a beautiful picture book that tells the story of a young Roman boy escaping from the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. This book will give children the opportunity to learn more about Roman daily life and look at what happened in Pompeii. There will be many writing opportunities linked to this book including; informal letters retelling the events of the eruption, a non-chronological report based on volcanoes and a newspaper report telling of the destruction of Pompeii.

Within **Maths**, we will continue to use the Mastery approach, completing small steps to ensure a secure understanding of any new concepts, and consolidating previously learnt knowledge. Children will be looking at measurement this half-term, particularly length and perimeter of regular and irregular 2d shapes. We will also be looking at multiplication and division of larger numbers. As always times tables will continue to be a big focus this half-term. It is important that children practise their times tables regularly at home as well as in school. There are several websites and games that children can use to do this in a fun, engaging way including Hit the Button and Times Table Rockstars.

In **Science** this half-term we will be completing work based around electricity. Children will have the opportunity to look at the different ways households use electricity and what appliances use electricity in different ways. We will also be looking at circuits and how these work to power different things such as light bulbs and buzzers. Children will learn the terminology linked to circuits and have a go at building series circuits with switches and several light bulbs.

In **Computing** we will continue to work on our coding skills, completing a game based on the Romans using Scratch. We will also be completing work based on Microsoft Word and PowerPoint producing information leaflets about Volcanoes. There will be a focus on effective searching as part of our online safety work. Children will learn what makes effective search criteria and also what to do if they see something that is unpleasant or that they feel is inappropriate.

This half-term we will be completing a **Design and Technology** unit linked to our Science work on electricity. Children will use their knowledge of circuits, to design and make a light up Christmas card. This will allow children, not only to demonstrate their understanding of circuits, but also develop their design skills – working to a specific brief and deadline.





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In **PSHCE** the theme for this half term is 'Getting On and Falling Out'. We will look at strategies on how to cope when we fall out with someone and make positive steps to sort out any problems. We will also be working on how to be good friends in the playground and some suitable outdoor games that we can play together.

In **RE** this half term we will continue to study Christianity, looking more at the Bible and focusing on the question 'Why do Christians call Jesus the light of the world?'

In **Spanish**, we will continue to learn new words and common phrases in order to build up our vocabulary and be able to practise speaking and writing in Spanish.

In **PE** this half-term we will be completing a games unit called 3-Touch Ball. Children will have the opportunity to build and practise the football skills learnt with the football coach we worked with in the previous half-term. PE is now timetabled for a Thursday afternoon and children should come to school wearing suitable tracksuit bottoms or leggings and trainers. A school t-shirt and jumper should still be worn.

In **Music**, we will continue with guitar lessons on a Friday afternoon.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please don't hesitate to contact school. We are still in incredibly difficult circumstances and I thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

The Year 4 Team

Miss Robinson and Mrs Brown

