



**Week beginning: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Dear Parents and carers,

Happy 2018! Welcome back after the break – I trust that you all had a fun festive season with your families. A BIG thank you to all for the very generous Christmas gifts. They were very much appreciated. Do take a look at the Sycamore Class page on the school website for an overview of our curriculum this term. There is lots in store!

Our science topic this half term is human biology – more specifically, the skeleton and muscles. Ultimately, we will be linking our science to our Romans topic by designing a fitness regime for a Roman soldier. Watch this space...

**Literacy - Genre ~ Fiction**

For the first few weeks of this term, we will be working on a fiction unit based around the story *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit. This week, our work will centre on reading and the creation of atmosphere in our writing through word choices, particularly powerful verbs and adverbs.

**Maths – Addition and subtraction**

This week we will briefly re-visit addition and subtraction to refresh the children's skills with written methods but, more importantly, to tackle a range of one and two-step problems. As part of our work, we will be developing our speedy recall of mental addition and subtraction facts and extending our skills to larger numbers.

**Home learning**

**Literacy**

Each week the children will have spellings to learn. These will be handed out on a Friday and tested the following week – generally Thursday, but depending on other events in any given week.

**Reading**

Please ensure that your child reads on a daily basis, for at least 15 minutes. Their reading book and reading journal (to record their reading) should travel to and from home/ school each day.

**Maths**

**MyMaths** – new home learning should appear each week.

**Mental Maths Target** for the first half term – times tables. Again, we will use an Olympic challenge approach so the children progress through different levels as they grow more confident. The National Curriculum sets the expectation that all children should be fluent with tables to 12x12 by the end of Y4. Please check with your child which stage they are on and support them with practice at home -speedy and accurate recall of x-tables will greatly support your child with our work on written multiplication and division.

Kind regards,

Sarah Pooley