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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Spring 2, 2023. Our topic is The Wonderful World of Chocolate

This half term, Year 3 will be reading a range of texts by Roald Dahl, discussing his style of writing and trying to re-create their own version.

Another key focus of this half term will be Maya Civilization. This links to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl as we will be looking at the Mayan's discovery and development of chocolate.

Dates for the Diary

- Spring 2 begins Monday 20th February
- Friday 24th February Mid Year Celebration of Learning
- Friday 3rd March World Book Day (further information will be sent out)
- Tuesday 21st March Chocolate Day (further information will be sent out)
- Friday 24th March reports sent home
- Thursday 30th March Easter Breakfast
- Friday 31st March last day of term

Reminder: Full P.E. kit needs to be in school every **Wednesday and Thursday**. All jewellery needs to be removed on PE days and long hair tied back. If your child cannot remove their earrings then you need to provide ear tape. As it is still cold, I advise that children wear jogging bottoms or shorts and tights on Thursday during our outdoor PE session. <u>Some</u> pupils will be swimming this half term, please see additional communication if this applies to your child, all other children will join Year 4 to have PE lessons in school on a Wednesday.

Time Table Practice

Times tables practise at home is crucial. Your child must be accessing Times Table Rockstars and practising their mental magicians every day. We continue to do our weekly mental magician test every **Friday** and are now also doing additional daily tests based on our class times table. This half term is the **4 x table**.

Reading at Home

Reading is a vital part of the children's education and it is expected that they read every day, whether that is to an adult or by themselves. Reading certificates will be awarded in celebration assemblies for the number of times the children have read and to monitor this the children or adults will need to record this in their reading record, numbering each entry: 50 entries – bronze reading award, 100 entries – silver reading award, 150 entries – gold reading award. Reading records will need to be in the children's book bags every day. Our reading focus this half term is **comprehension**, listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction. The children will be discussing what the text tells them (retrieval) and always summarising from what is implied by the language used. The key focus will be the children understanding













what they are reading and verbalising this. The children will be reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes.

It would be brilliant if you could support your children with this skill at home and I have listed some questions you can use below.

Key questions for comprehension:

- What has happened in the last few paragraphs? Why do you think that has happened?
- How does the character feel towards...?
- Why did that character move / talk / act in that way?
- Tell me about this character / setting, what are they like? How do you know?

Homework

Spellings and Mental Maths (including times tables)

Spellings and mental maths activities need to be complete every day at home. **Books will be checked each week** and dragon points will be awarded to those who do this. Children will be tested every **Thursday** and new homework will be given out on **Friday**. If the children do not get all of their mental maths questions right, then they will remain on that same skill until they do so. Homework will be differentiated to meet the needs of each child.

- <u>Spellings</u> children will practise their spellings every night using the **look, say, cover, write, check** technique.
- <u>Mental Magicians (including times tables)</u> please log on to Times Tables Rockstars regularly at home and practice your times tables.

And finally, please remember that your role in your child's education is crucial. If you would like more information, or would like to become more involved in school (e.g. as a reader or as a helper on a school trip), or if you have any artefacts or resources to offer the school, it is always greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Miss E Johnston Year 3 Teacher