Dear Parents / Carer,

A very warm welcome to the Year 4 Autumn Term. I hope you have had a good summer. I am very much looking forward to working with your children and hope they enjoy the experiences of the year ahead.

In these unusual times, we will be spending the first few weeks settling all children back into the new school routine, mostly focusing on mental and physical health as well as ensuring children remain on track with their learning.

Our class novel for the term, is Romans on the Rampage by Jeremy Strong. The novel links in well with our History work based around the Romans in our region Our reading and writing activities will link to the novel and will include fictional descriptive writing and poetry.

In Maths, we will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction. As always, regular arithmetic practise will take place, alongside the problem solving and reasoning on a daily basis. We will have a big focus on Times Tables, as children in Year 4 will carry out online Times Tables tests later in the year. Please practice these regularly at home, all the way up to 12 x 12 and remember to use Times Tables Rock Stars regularly to help ensure rapid recall of facts.

This term, homework will focus on key skills and you will be receiving further details in the near future. In the meantime, please encourage your child to continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars.

Reading remains as important as ever: it helps you grow mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Every book gives you an opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. In school, children will continue to take part in guided reading lessons and have access to reading activities throughout the curriculum. At the present time, we are not able to send reading books home. However, the access to Oxford Owl continues and there are also some free sites you can use or sign up to:

<https://www.getepic.com/>

<https://www.freechildrenstories.com/>

Children can experience many benefits, physically, mentally and emotionally, as a direct result of their participation in PE, and a higher level of participation can lead to greater rewards. P.E. takes place on a Monday and Friday afternoon. On these days, children should come into school dressed in outdoor P.E. kits, which includes joggers, the school’s blue T-shirt and school sweatshirt.

If you have any questions or would like to pass on any information, please don’t hesitate to contact me on my school email address – k.smith201@durhamlearning.net. Finally, don’t forget to check out our class blog regularly to find updates on our learning.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Smith