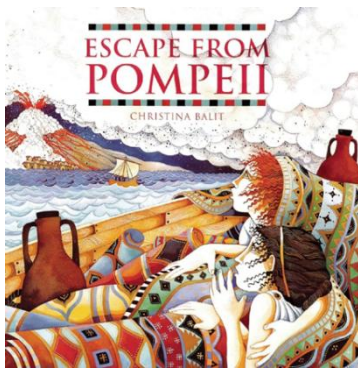


Dear Parents,



In Summer 2, Birch class will be reading 'Escape from Pompeii', by Christina Balit. This story is inspired by historical events and explores the themes of friendship, tragedy, dilemma and survival.

Blurb

Travel back in time to view the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the Roman Empire. For a Roman boy called Tranio, 24th August is a day he will never forget. As the ground shakes, the sky darkens and everyone around him runs gasping for air, he and his friend, Livia flee to the harbour and witness the destruction of everything they know and love, in one of the most terrifying moments of recorded history

We will be exploring the events of the story and how it affects the characters, the community and their environment. We will use the story to develop our non-fiction writing skills and we will produce a newspaper article based on the story. Please help your child by allowing them to read this story over the half-term. These can be found online or in most libraries.

Escape from Pompeii online story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4ZlyszMbmng>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=506haO6kYzg&t=58s>

Share the story with your child and discuss the events in the story. Ask your child questions beginning with the words, 'who, what, where, when, why'. Do discuss new vocabulary and use them in sentences.



This term we will also practice our poetry writing based on the story. We will use our senses, focusing on using adjectives, expanding noun phrases, similes and alliteration to make our writing more exciting. We will continue to develop our compound sentences through the use of coordinating conjunction and complex sentences with subordinating conjunctions, to progress in our writing.



We continue with essential vocabulary and 'Colourful Semantic' (See image) sentence frames to support us in our writing.

Please read regularly with your child to build their vocabulary for speaking and writing. When practicing **writing** at home, help your child to 'think' about what they want to write, 'say it', 'write it' and 'read it'.

Below, the website **BBC Bitesize** has many videos and activities to help develop **skills your child needs** to progress in English. Please speak to **Ms James** if you need further support

with this:

Sentence writing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx36g2p/articles/zsv64qt#zdx3khv>

Adjectives:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtfr/articles/zy2r6yc>

Expanded noun phrases:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/z3nfw6f>



Spelling and handwriting are a large part of writing so to build confidence with this, please help your child to practice their spelling and handwriting each day. **Your child has been given a handwriting book to practice their handwriting daily.** Pupils will complete a long spelling test in the first week back to school and mini tests each week.

In class **reading** activities continues with us practicing our, retrieval, inferencing and predicting skills using various text types. Support you children to practice these reading skills while reading daily at home.

Many thanks,

Birch Class Team