

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Communication

If you have any questions, please continue to email the school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We will again be conducting our Parents' Evenings via video call to discuss your child's progress and to update you about their learning. These meetings will take place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March.

Topics this term

This term, we will be studying 'One Thousand and One Arabian Nights' by Geraldine McCaughrean. We will be looking at the features of Arabian Nights Tales and tales from different cultures. We will also explore characters, settings and effective vocabulary and grammar choices. In addition, we will have a focus on non-fiction texts, which will link strongly with our science topics.

The punctuation and grammar focus will continue to be relative clauses and pronouns, modal verbs, parenthesis using brackets, dashes and commas, with time for consolidation of subordinate clauses and subordinating and coordinating conjunctions. We will once again be strongly revising the use of basic punctuation and sentence structure. We will still be sending spellings home in reading diaries each week and will use dictations and spelling tests to check spelling knowledge, normally on a Monday. The spellings sent home will reflect the patterns learnt in the weekly spelling lesson, as well as incorporating words from the Year 5/6 spelling list. We will continue to have a spelling lesson each week but this will explore Year 5 spelling rules and will form the basis of our daily handwriting practice. Handwriting continues to be an important focus and a joined, fluent, consistent style is encouraged and expected.

We are continuing to encourage the children to try reading some of the books from the reading list that was sent home at the beginning of the year. These books are all available to borrow from the school library. Each child will continue to be able to borrow two books from the library.

In Maths this term, we will be covering the following objectives from the Year 5 curriculum:

- Multiplication- Multiplying up to 4 digits by 2 digits.
- Division- Dividing up to 4 digits by 1 digit.
- Fractions- Equivalent fractions; improper fractions; mixed numbers and ordering fractions. Addition and subtraction of fractions- mixed numbers and breaking the whole. Multiplying unit/non-unit fractions. Calculating fractions of amounts.

We will continue to focus on securing fluency with number facts and would strongly encourage children to spend time on TT Rockstars at home, in order to secure knowledge of times tables facts.

History - We will be studying the Ancient Maya, as our non-European civilisation.

Geography - Our geography topic is 'Fantastic Journeys'. Focus: key countries and features of the world. Regions, tropics, hemispheres, tropics, time zones Longitude/Latitude.

Science - Our topics will be 'Earth and Space' and 'Living Things'.

Computing - In the first half term, we will be continuing our work on creating and using flat-file databases. In the second half term, we will be looking at computer systems and networks, identifying what a system is and how we can work online collaboratively. We will also have E-safety units on managing online information and online relationships.

Art - Linked to our history topic, we will be doing drawing and printing projects related to the Ancient Maya. We will be producing detailed sketches of Mayan figures and Mayan script, and will be creating Mayan glyphs. We will be creating negative and positive print images by designing and making a tile.

D&T - In DT, we will be celebrating culture and seasonality, with a focus on cooking and nutrition. We will be creating a seasonal soup.

RE - Our topics will be 'What do Christians believe about God?' and 'Why is the Last Supper So Important to Christians?'.

French- Units will be 'Hobbies' and 'a School Trip'.

Music- Our topics will be 'Solar System' and 'Our Community'

PSHE/ RSE- This term in PSHE our topic is Relationships. We will focus on our communication, speaking and listening skills to begin the term by working on our debating skills. We will then move on to looking at ways to resolve conflicts with our friends and how to respect other people's differing points of view or opinions. We will end the term by looking at why friends are so important in our lives and what makes a good friend. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Dates

February Half term: Monday 20th - Friday 24th February

Parents' Evening video conferences: Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April

Timetable

Our PE day is still a Monday. Please remember that your child should continue to come to school already dressed for PE. Our classes will continue to access Forest Schools throughout the year and we will let you know in advance so that appropriate clothing can be worn to school on those days.

Homework

Children will receive Maths, English or topic related homework on a Friday, to be completed by the following Wednesday.

We hope your child will enjoy the new term and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hague, Mrs Barker and Mrs Stoker