

Year 5 Class Newsletter: Autumn Term 2021

Welcome to Year 5's first newsletter of the new school year. I hope that you are all refreshed after the summer holidays and are ready for the academic year ahead. This term, the children will be studying the following:

English: First half-term: During our first few days back at school, we read an uplifting book called 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy which the children loved. It has such an important message about kindness and is full of warming quotes. We had lots of discussion and practised our comprehension skills. The children also created their own inspirational quotes to help others.

For the next few weeks, we will study 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' by Louis Sachar. This book explores several important themes such as friendships and bullying. We will write in role through letters and diary entries and create character descriptions. We will also look at writing discussion texts to help explore the themes and plot. In addition, we will use a range of drama techniques to help us empathise with the main characters.

Linked to our History topic on the 'Ancient Maya', we will read 'Rain Player' by David Wisniewski which is a short illustrated text about a boy who challenges the rain god to an ancient game. The children will create several pieces of writing that cover a range of genres. These will include the following: writing in role e.g. letters and diaries; newspaper reports; writing their own Mayan myth; and a discussion text linked to a class debate.

Second half-term: After half-term, our class text will be 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. This is an adventure story which is set in the Amazon Rainforest. Based on the book, the children will complete a variety of written tasks. These include writing their own version of the opening chapter as well as additional chapters. They will also write from the perspective of different characters in the form of diaries and letters. In addition, they will write in a range of non-fiction genres such as instructions, non-chronological reports and persuasive texts. After reading the book, the children will plan and write their own adventure story in the style of the author.

Throughout the term, we will also be looking closely at a range of grammar terminology and revising the different word classes and applying them in our writing. We will also look at different sentence types and in particular the structure of complex sentences. We will also greatly focus on the importance of accurate punctuation, particularly commas.

Maths: As a school, we will continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme and supplement it with other resources. As well as focus on Year 5 objectives, we will also revise some of the concepts from Year 4. During the first half-term, the children will focus mainly on 'Number and Place Value' and 'Addition and Subtraction'. Here is an overview of the key objectives that we will cover:

Number and Place Value: Read, write, order and compare numbers and determine the value of each digit; read Roman numerals to 1000; round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10 000 and 100 000; count forwards or backwards in steps of powers of 10; interpret negative numbers in context; solve number problems that involve place value.

Addition and Subtraction: Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers; add and subtract whole numbers using formal written methods; use rounding to check answers to calculations and determine levels of accuracy; solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts.

During the second half-term, we will focus on 'Multiplication and Division' as well as 'Statistics' and 'Measurement'. Here is an overview of the key objectives that we will cover:

Multiplication and Division: Multiply and divide numbers mentally drawing upon known facts; identify multiples and factors; know and use the vocabulary of prime numbers, prime factors and composite numbers; recognise and use square numbers and cube numbers; establish whether a number up to 100 is prime and recall prime numbers up to 19; multiply and divide whole numbers and those involving decimals by 10, 100 and 1000.

Statistics: Solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in a line graph; complete, read and interpret information in tables, including timetables.

Measurement: Perimeter and Area - Measure and calculate the perimeter of 2D shapes; calculate and compare the area of rectangles; estimate the area of irregular shapes.

Throughout these topics, the children will be looking at developing their using and applying skills, mathematical reasoning and mental arithmetic. In addition, the children will focus on revising and further enhancing their written arithmetic skills.

Religious Education: Our topic for the first half term will be 'Creation'. The children will learn about the creation of the world and how God has asked us to be good stewards of it. After half term, our topic will be 'God's Covenants'. The children will become familiar with the covenants God made with people in the past and especially the New Covenant He made with us.

Science: Our topic this term is 'Properties and changes of materials'. The children will sort and classify objects according to their properties. They will explore the properties of materials to find the most suitable material for different purposes. They will then look at soluble and insoluble materials and how to separate them. They will also learn about reversible and irreversible changes of materials.

History: This term, our topic will be 'The Ancient Maya'. We will be learning all about this ancient civilisation including where the people lived, their religious beliefs and customs; their food and entertainment; their number system and the celebration of Mayan culture in tourism today. We will also make links to English with our work on 'Rain Player'.

Geography: This term, our topic will be 'The Rainforest' with a particular focus on the Amazon. The children will learn about the physical and human geography of a rainforest, climate zones and biomes. They will use maps and atlases to identify countries and continents across the world, the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the equator, the Northern Hemisphere, as well as the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. This unit also links to our study of the 'Ancient Maya' as the rainforest was vital to their daily lives.

Computing: This term we will be reminding the children about the importance of e-safety. They will know how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private. They will also learn about the opportunities available for communication and collaboration through blogging. We will also use 'Scratch' to design, write and debug programs. Through these topics, the children will also develop their vocabulary related to computing terminology.

Art and Design: Our Art work this term will be cross-curricular, linking to our work in English, RE, History and Geography. For example, the children will create their own Mayan worry dolls, artwork linked to rainforest animals and also our creation topic. They will also learn about Mayan artists and replicate pieces in their different styles.

PE: This term, Year 5 will participate in PE lessons on Wednesdays. The children must ensure that they wear the correct PE kit to school on this day along with their hats and blazers. They must also ensure that their trainers are plain black or white. They will focus on net & wall games such as tennis, badminton and volleyball in the first half of term. After half term they will focus on striking & fielding games such as cricket.

Homework: Homework will be set on Friday through Google Classroom and will be due on Thursday. The children will be given exercise books to record their work which they should bring back to school. Children will be given an English and Maths task, as well as topic tasks every few weeks. Spelling lists will be given for the children to learn for a test the following Friday. Additional challenge tasks will often be set which can be completed if the children would like to do so. Therefore these are not compulsory.

All children should ensure that they read for at least twenty minutes at home each day. This should then be recorded in their reading journals which they should bring to and from school daily. The children can choose books from school or read their own books from home.

They should also be working on ensuring that they are fully secure in the rapid recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12, as well as identifying related division facts and square numbers. Initially, the children will complete weekly timed times tables challenges in class to help increase the pace of their recall. I would also encourage the children to complete tasks on Mathletics (*once this has been set up for the new school year*). There will be times when I set tasks for the children to complete as part of their homework.

The children should try to complete homework as independently as possible. If you assist your child with a task or you feel they are spending a great deal of time completing the work set, it would be useful for you to annotate on their work or let me know so that I am aware of this.

Homework will be reviewed together as a class and marked by either themselves or their peers to ensure that they receive instant feedback. The children will be given opportunities to share their answers with the class and model these to their peers. I will check whether the tasks have been completed and give verbal feedback to the children where needed. I will also review tasks further with those children who need extra support or clarification.

If children do not complete all of their homework or fail to hand it in on time, they will miss part of their lunchtime break on a Thursday. This will be for a maximum of 15 minutes.

Equipment: The school has supplied the children with the equipment they need for lessons including handwriting pens, rulers, pencils and green pens. The children can bring in their own equipment if they wish in a small compact pencil case, but they do not need rubbers, cartridge pens, ink erasers or friction pens. Rubbing out their work is not an effective use of their time. This can also affect the quantity of work produced during lessons and also hinders the presentation of their work. If the children make a mistake, they are encouraged to neatly cross it out and carry on.

Each child should bring a water bottle from home which is clearly labelled with their name. (*Unfortunately, several children have been forgetting to bring a water bottle to school, so please remind them to do so each day.*)

Children may also bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser (optional).

Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to the year ahead.

Miss Browne