11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what has been such a strange and unusual time. I am really looking forward to getting to know the children and have a positive and successful school year. I hope you enjoyed the summer holidays and got to sit out in the sunshine for a while, or at least enjoy the storms! Here is an outline of the curriculum areas we will be focusing on during the autumn term.

English and Maths.

We will be following the National Curriculum in daily sessions. English topics will be Traditional tales, where we will study Stone Age Tales as well as an alternative version of Little Red Riding Hood. We will study classical poetry, mainly poems by Lewis Carroll and work on a geography based explanation text investigating coastal erosion and sea defences. After half term we will study Phoenix which is a fantastic book by S F Said.

Every morning from 8:45am we will spend time quiet reading. I will be listening to children read during this time and in guided reading sessions. Reading books and reading records will be sent home daily. It is incredibly important that your child reads at home, even if they are a confident reader. Discussing the books and encouraging your child to share their opinions will also help with understanding which plays a major part in assessing reading in year 5. Reading books and records need to come in to school every day so we can hear the children read.

**Reading challenge**: Year 5 will be taking part in a reading challenge each half term so please sign your child’s reading record each time they read at home. Every time you sign it the children will get a sticker and those who have read the most will get a prize at the end of half term.

Spellings and grammar will be done twice a day, once to practice the year 3 and 4 words and curriculum and once to learn the new year 5 and 6 spellings and grammar. Spellings will be sent home each Monday to be learned throughout the week for a spelling test on Friday. I will send home a list of the Year 5 and 6 words for you to keep at home.

In maths we will be following the White Rose Maths Scheme which will focus this term on place value and understanding numbers. We will learn about Roman numerals and ordering and comparing numbers up to 1000000. We will also follow Big Maths to help with calculation strategies and to fill in gaps from work missed during lockdown.

PSHE and Well Being.

We will focus on mental health and wellbeing a lot this term. We will focus on keeping safe, healthy lifestyles and healthy relationships. We will also have brain breaks and do yoga and meditation to support wellbeing.

ICT.

This term we will be focusing on online safety. This will be an e-aware topic so children can understand how to stay safe online

PE

We are hoping to continue with karate with Natalie later this year. We will be taking part in the daily mile and will do lots of physical activities both in and out of the classroom. Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school at all times. Children with earrings need to be able to remove them themselves or not wear them when we are doing PE. After half term Year 5 will be doing football with Barrow AFC. Please make sure they have trainers and tracksuit bottoms in as it might be getting colder and wetter by then. I will send out a reminder about this before half term.

Topic

This term we will learn all about The Stone Age to the Iron Age, investigating how the lives of people changed over time. We will also look at stories from the time. This worked will be linked into an English topic.

Geography will also focus on coasts and rivers. We will find out about coastal erosion and through an English topic will explore how sea defences can help. We will study various river systems. We also hope to have a go at making some rivers.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Monday and must be completed by Thursday, to allow time for marking. Homework will be focused on Maths and English. Homework will be challenges set on Purple Mash. If you have any problems accessing this at home, then please let me know.

Medical

If your child has developed any medical concerns or allergies please notify us. If your child needs an inhaler please make sure we have one in school, labelled with instructions on when and how to use.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of this letter or have any concerns about your child, please make an appointment at the school office.

Kind regards

Gaynor Stevens

Year 5 Teacher