



Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all had a very enjoyable and relaxing holiday. Thank you for your support in making the beginning of the school year run so smoothly and calmly. The children have settled in well and are keen and eager to learn! This term we are very excited to have Miss Rush who is currently completing her teacher training working with us in class. We are confident that parents and pupils will warmly welcome her into our school community.

English

This half term our class read is 'The Curse of the Maya'. The development of reading skills will be at the core of all lessons. We will work hard to understand the meaning of tricky vocabulary whilst also further developing our inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising skills. Next half term we will explore the book 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. Pupils are expected to read at home each day and access Reading Plus at home regularly throughout the week.

A major element of our English teaching this term will be developing our skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar. Dedicated time will be given each day to ensure that these skills are embedded and transferred across all curriculum areas. Our writing this term will link both to our class novel and wider subject areas. We will explore a range of genres with the aim of incorporating a various grammatical features and ambitious vocabulary into our written pieces.

Spellings will continue to be taught in school each week. Pupils will be assigned a new spelling list each Thursday to be tested the following Thursday.

RE

Throughout school we follow the RE Scheme '**Come and See**'. We begin our year with a topic which is all about '**Ourselves**'. We will identify our own unique gifts and qualities that we possess and look at how we can share these amongst others. Our second topic is '**Life Choices**'. We will also spend some time studying **Judaism**. Our final topic '**Hope**' leads us through to the season of Advent.

Science

We will start our learning this term with our Properties and Changes of Materials unit of work. We will compare and group together materials based upon their properties before investigating the suitability of materials for different purposes. We will then move on to combine materials and understand the difference between reversible and irreversible changes.

Later in the term we will study Forces. We will explore the force of gravity, the effects of air resistance and how some mechanisms allow a small force to have a greater effect.

Maths

In Mathematics, the children will develop and build upon their skills from Year 4. We have begun by consolidating and further developing our knowledge of place value. We will improve our confidence when identifying the value of digits in decimal numbers before moving on to comparing, ordering and rounding decimal numbers. We will also develop our ability to calculate and solve problems involving money. Later this term we will move on to negative numbers and study standard written methods for multiplication & division. Throughout our learning we will strive to apply our knowledge to challenging problem solving and reasoning style questions.

The children will also continue to learn and practise their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and related division facts. As always children are encouraged to practise their times tables and other skills such as telling the time at home regularly. All pupils have been given their Times Table Rockstar log in information.



History & Geography

This half term our history focus is on the Ancient Maya civilisation. We will begin by identifying where the Ancient Maya civilisation came in time, making connections to other known periods of study. The children will have the opportunity to explore Maya society, religion and achievements in depth. Throughout this unit we will use sources of evidence to ask and answer questions and present historical arguments.

Later in the term our Geography focus will be North America. We will begin through comparing the geographical features of North America to the UK before looking into the physical challenges that North America faces and how these challenges influence population distribution and farming.

PSHE

This half term in PSHE we will explore the theme 'Me and my Relationships'. The children will further their understanding of the key characteristics of friendships, identifying ways to maintain positive relationships through showing care and concern for others. Later in the term we will focus on citizenship and bullying. We will understand the importance of being just, fair and having good judgement, knowing how our school and wider community ensures that nobody is discriminated against.

French

The children will continue to have a weekly French lesson delivered by Madame Sonley. The children will further develop their knowledge and understanding of the French language and culture.

Computing

The children will start with an exciting unit this term on developing their coding skills. We will create a game and improve our understanding of variables to control objects. Later in the term we will explore Online Safety.

Art & DT

This half term in design technology the children will complete a design challenge linked to chocolate, which of course the Maya civilisation were well known for! The pupils will design Maya inspired packaging after completing research before measuring ingredients accurately and making a final product that meets criteria. Later in the term we will explore and recreate the work of the artist, Frida Khalo.

Forest School

We are incredibly lucky to have a Forest Schools session every week this term. Pupils will complete various cross-curricular, practical outdoor activities to help further develop their teamwork and co-operation skills.

Music

This term Year 5 will have music lessons delivered by Mrs Taylor from Tees Valley Music Service. Across the term the pupils will develop their skills in playing tuned percussion and melodic instruments.

PE

Our 'My Personal Best' word this half term is 'Encouragement'. We will be learning how to be a positive role model, how to inspire others, how to offer practical solutions and help, and how to identify challenges for others. For our physical skills we begin the term working on running, learning how to change pace when running over different distances. Invasion games will focus on passing a ball with accuracy and further developing our attacking and defending skills. In Gymnastics we will concentrate on balance, jumps and travel. In dance we will learn to copy, repeat and remember complex movements to develop movement memory. PE lessons will take place every Friday with Mrs Tattersdill.

Homework will be given out every Thursday and should be completed and handed in for the following Thursday each week. The children will be given tasks that link to the retrieval of learning in Maths and English.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss anything further, then please do not hesitate to contact school. Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Wilberforce, Mrs Lankford & Ms Ronan

