



Year 5 Spring Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new school term! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break, the children have come back to school eager to learn and we have a lot to look forward to!

English

This half term we will be reading 'George's Secret Key to the Universe' linked to our Science learning of Earth and Space. Next half term we will read 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. This book will closely link to our History learning of 'The Home Front'. We will explore both texts in depth being able to identify the meaning of vocabulary in context and make detailed inferences and predictions.

The children continue to be encouraged to read daily at home and are expected to complete two activities in their reading journal each week. Reading Plus is a fantastic resource that our children can continue to access at home. Regular use will support good progress in reading skills.

Our writing this term will link both to our class novels and wider subject areas. We will explore a wider range of genres with the aim of confidently incorporating a range of grammatical features and ambitious vocabulary into our written pieces. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will continue to be incorporated across all of our English lessons. Spellings will continue to be taught in school each week.

RE

Throughout the school we follow the RE Scheme '**Come and See**'. We will begin with our topic called '**Mission**'. This will allow the class to discover more about those who devote their lives to helping others. We will also explore what our mission is in our lives today.

Our second and third topics focus on **Sacrifice**, we will explore this term in detail, developing an understanding of the beliefs and values of individuals, giving reasons for actions and events we can describe.

Maths

To begin this term we will strengthen our understanding of written methods for multiplication and division by progressing onto multiplying and dividing decimal numbers. We will then improve our ability to identify factors, multiples and prime factors. A big focus later this term in Maths will be fractions. We will look closely into identifying and converting between improper and mixed number fractions before moving onto multiplying fractions. We will then progress onto being able to find a fraction of a quantity and identifying equivalent fractions. As always, we will continuously apply our understanding to reasoning and problem solving questions.

The children will continue to develop their arithmetic skills, each day we have short maths fluency sessions to help further improve our accuracy and speed when recalling number facts. All children are aware of their Times Tables Rockstars log on information and should be accessing this regularly at home.



Geography & History

This half term we will continue our study of North America in Geography. We will explore the physical challenges that North America faces and how these challenges influence population distribution and farming. Later this term our History focus is 'The Home Front' We will learn about the problems of living on the British Home Front of WWII. Throughout the term we will look into the key themes of attack, defence and morale and evaluate how successful each area was for the war effort.

Science

Our topic this term is Earth and Space, we will understand the location and the interaction between the Earth, Sun and Moon. We will learn about the Solar System; how day and night occurs and why we have different seasons.

PSHE

This half term in PSHE we will improve our understanding of democracy. We will study why and how laws are made and how we can take part in the making and changing of rules while exploring key words such as 'just, 'fair' and 'integrity'. We will then explore the importance of debate in a unit of work in which the children will develop their speaking and listening skills and build upon their independent and critical thinking. Later this term we will study cultural diversity. We will understand and demonstrate respect for differences and understand the importance of living in the right relationships with the range of diverse ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and beyond.

Computing

To begin the term the children will explore the purpose and functions of databases and create their own. Then we will revisit and further develop our coding knowledge in order to create and evaluate our own computer game.

Forest School

We are incredibly lucky to have a Forest Schools session every week this term delivered by 'Sc.out.ed'. Every Monday pupils will complete various cross-curricular, practical outdoor activities to help further develop their teamwork and co-operation skills.

Art & DT

Our studies of The Home Front (WWII) and Earth and Space this term will offer many art and DT opportunities. We will study Henry Moore and use a range of materials and tools to create our own inspired pieces of art. In DT we will explore the uses of different mechanisms and design and build our own lunar land rover prototype.

Music

In music this half term the children will listen and describe examples of music using key vocabulary and practise singing in three-part rounds. We are very lucky to have Mrs Taylor from Tees Valley Music Service to deliver music next half term.

French

The children will continue to have a weekly French lesson, where they will learn more about the French language and culture.

PE

Our 'My Personal Best' word this half term is self motivation. We will explore and share our experiences of self motivation and how this can be demonstrated in PE, in school and at home. Next half term our focus will be co-operation. We will further develop our team work skills and understand the importance of co-operation across all aspects of school life.

In our PE lessons we will continue with gymnastics, adding more jumps, rolls and travelling techniques to improve our final sequences. We will also complete our unit of dance. Later in the term we will looking at a number of striking and fielding games.

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

