



Welcome back to the second half of our spring term. This half term, our curriculum focus areas are history and art.

In our history lessons, we will be learning all about the Vikings. The children will be able to explain where the Vikings came from and why they invaded Britain. They will learn about the importance of trading to the Vikings and be able to name some of their trade routes. Finally, the children will evaluate the impact of the Viking achievements.

In art, the children will be continuing to develop their drawing skills, building on what they have learnt in previous years. They will be creating tone using pencil and charcoal and use this in observational drawings. Following this, the children will be studying Huichol art - traditional folk art - to design a make a tile of their own in this style.

Our science work will be developing the children's understanding of classifying living things, with a focus on animals, using the Linnaeus system. We will also be carrying out an investigation into the factors that affect the brightness of bulbs.

In English, the children will be learning about how to use speech to develop their characters and advance the action in a narrative. They will be using the fairytale of Rumaysa as inspiration for this.

Throughout the term, we will also be taking part in a range of computing, music, PSHE and French activities.

We will continue with PE twice weekly in school with the children learning rugby and dance.

Here are some things you might want to do at home:

- Conduct your own research into the location of Mexico in relation to the UK
- Create a scrap book of Mexican traditions
- Watch videos of Mexican festivals online
- Research Mexican Independence Day. When was it? How did it happen? Who were the people responsible?
- Design a mask for the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead
- Traditional Mexican food includes: chocolate, corn tortilla, avocados and beans. Can you find a traditional Mexican recipe to cook at home?

Reading at home

Please remember it is important to hear your child read at home or share stories with them. The homework policy is to read 5 times a week at home. Your child will bring home a coloured reading book but is also encouraged to read a book for their own enjoyment, for example an information book, a magazine or a poetry book.

Core Texts

Upper Key Stage 2 will be using the core text of Rumaysa: a fairytale as a stimulus for writing this half term.

The core texts we will be reading this half term are:

Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties by Henry White and Humza Arshad - Stingrays

The Haunting of Aveline Jones - Sharks

The girl who stole an elephant - Dolphins

Homework

We will be continuing to set homework this half term in line with the homework policy:

- In Year 5 and 6, maths and English homework is set every Thursday and is due in the following Tuesday

- Children are expected to read a minimum of five times per week and this is to be recorded in their planners (Year 6) or reading records (Year 5)
- Children should access TT RockStars for a minimum of 10 minutes daily. It is important that all children are able to recall their times table and division facts **randomly** and **at speed**
- Throughout the year, additional spelling, punctuation and grammar homework may also be set to support the learning taking place at school.
- Homework club is run every Thursday during lunch time if the children would prefer to complete this at school.

PE Days

For PE days, children can come to school wearing the correct PE kit, considering the weather. Please ensure appropriate footwear is worn on these days and children have a refillable water bottle with them. The children will have PE on the following days, **please note the changes to the days:**

Stingrays: Wednesday and Thursday

Sharks: Tuesday and Wednesday

Dolphins: Tuesday and Friday

The teachers in Upper Key Stage 2 are:

Mrs Briers - Stingrays' class teacher and UKS2 leader

Miss Tucker - Dolphins' class teacher

Mrs Lockley - Sharks' class teacher

The adults supporting in Upper Key Stage 2 are:

Miss Holman

Mrs Donald

Mrs Brown

Mr Marshall