

Welcome back to school!  
We hope you have all had a good half term break.

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be focusing on factors, multiples and fractions. Year 6 will be working on fractions and shape, converting units and position. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term our English lessons will be working on instruction writing and non-chronological reports. We will also continue to focus on spelling and the grammar work completed in Autumn 1.

In History, we will be investigating local histories from the Victorian to the inter-war period. The children will learn about the census, its purpose and its changes over time.

In Art, we will be exploring the purpose and impact of images from the 'Space race' era of the 1950s and 60s; developing independence and decision-making using open-ended and experimental processes; combining drawing and collagraph printmaking to create a futuristic image.

In Science, Year 5 we will be broadening their experience of the properties of materials, investigating hardness, transparency and conductivity and considering how these properties influence the uses of materials. We will also explore reversible changes, including dissolving and changes of state. Year 6 will be proving that light travels in a straight line and using this information to explain observations of reflection and shadows. The children will investigate the effect of moving an object away from the surface it casts a shadow on and the relationship between the incoming and reflected rays on a mirrored surface.

We will also be doing:

- RE - considering the question 'Are all religions are equal?' and looking at sacred texts
- PE - choreographing and performing a West Side Story inspired dance
- PSHE - exploring different perceptions about what normal means and celebrating our differences
- Computing - coding to make simple games
- Music - listening to the work of Mendelssohn and further developing improvisation and composition skills

## **Core Texts**

The core text we will be reading this half term is Holes by Louis Sachar

## **Homework**

We will be setting homework this half term in line with the homework policy:

- Maths and English homework are 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 Rock Stars 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.

## **Important information**

Don't forget that every day the children need: a re-fillable water bottle, book bag to hold their reading record, spelling book and reading book and their lunch box (if they are not having school dinners).

## **PE Days**

Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit (they do not need their school uniform to change back into). Long hair should be tied up and no jewellery should be worn - including earrings. Ears that have been recently pierced where earrings cannot be removed will need to be covered.

As a reminder our PE kit is:

- Plain black shorts
- Royal blue polo shirt with or without school logo
- Royal blue hoodie with or without school logo
- Black tracksuit bottoms (colder weather)
- Trainers (not plimsolls)

## **We will have PE on the following days:**

Dolphins - Tuesday and Thursday

Sharks - Monday and Thursday

Stingrays - Tuesday and Wednesday

## **The teachers in our phase are:**

Miss Claire Pollendine - Phase Leader, Dolphins Class teacher

Miss Amber Parker-Routh - Sharks Class teacher

Mrs Gemma Lockley - Stingrays Class teacher

## **The adults supporting in our phase are:**

Miss Jo Holman HLTA

Mrs Alison Cowing

Mrs Claire Brown

Mrs Lucy Donald