

Welcome back to school!

We hope you have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be focusing on comparing, adding and subtracting fractions, as well as multiplication and division. They will also be brushing up their skills in finding area and perimeter. Year 6 will be working on ratio, algebra and decimals as well as a little bit of statistics. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term our English lessons will be working on a setting description of *Cottage in the Woods* within a dark fairytale. The children will be using expanded noun phrases, rhetorical questions as well as adverbials of time and place to create the scene from outside the cottage. They will also be writing a recount from the perspective of a boy who is unable to leave his 17th floor flat. This will require the children to write in the first person and past tense.

In Geography, we will be asking - What is it like to live in the desert? We will be exploring hot desert biomes and learning about the physical features of a desert and how humans interact with this environment.

In DT, Year 5 be creating a functional pop-up book using levers, sliders, layers and spacers to create paper-based mechanisms. They will be designing a stuffed toy and making decisions on materials, decorations and attachments (appendages) after learning how to sew a blanket stitch. Year 6 will be developing a functional automata window display, with video instruction, interpret exploded diagrams and have time to explore different cam shapes. They will be designing and programming a navigation tool to produce a multifunctional device for trekkers using CAD 3D modelling software.

In Science, Year 5 we continue to consider the properties of materials, investigating transparency and conductivity. We will also begin to explore the movement of celestial bodies in the Solar System, learning about the Earth, other planets and the Moon. Year 6 will be completing their investigation into shadows. They will also start to look at inherited and environmental characteristics patterns in humans and other species.

We will also be doing:

- RE - thinking about religious freedom, children use historical and modern-day examples of people, such as Guy Fawkes, who have fought for their beliefs to discuss controversial issues
- PE - we will continue to improve our Fitness and work on Multiskills such as agility, balance and co-ordination
- PSHE - we will be thinking about our personal learning goals both in and out of school
- Computing - we will finish our work on Coding and move onto Spreadsheets
- Music - exploring and identifying the characteristics of film music and creating a composition and graphic score to perform alongside a film

Core Texts

The core text we will be reading this half term is: *The Haunting of Aveline Jones* - Phil Hickes

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. Some of our PE lessons are outside. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor PE on their class PE days.

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