

## Welcome back to school!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be focusing on using more formal methods of multiplication and building on their knowledge of fractions to find equivalence in decimals and percentages. Year 6 will continue to work on algebra, fractions decimals and percentages and area and volume. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term in English we will be working on characterising speech through a narrative piece based on the opening evacuation in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. The children will be able to apply all of the writing elements we have learned so far as well as including speech and dialogue. The children will then have the opportunity to use their knowledge of the planets to create their own planet and produce a non-chronological report about it. We will also be reading and studying a variety of poems this half term.

In History, we will be looking at the city-states of Athens and Sparta to identify similarities and differences between them, learning about democracy and assessing the legacy of the Ancient Greeks.

In Art, we will be investigating self-portraits by a range of artists. The children will use photographs of themselves as a starting point for developing their own unique self-portraits in mixed media.

In Science, Year 5 will be comparing the life cycles of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects. The children will investigate asexual reproduction in plants. In Year 6, the children will be revisiting electrical circuits, drawing conventional circuit diagrams, using models to explain current, resistance and voltage, comparing batteries and their effects on bulb brightness and applying their knowledge to design and create practical devices.

We will also be doing:

- RE - thinking first as geographers and historians, children will explore the spread of Christian beliefs worldwide through looking at artwork and history
- PE - children will be working on their jumps, rolls and cartwheels both on and off apparatus. They will also be developing their teamwork skills and tactics in dodgeball
- PSHE - children will consider healthy diet and activity choices as well as knowing how to be a good friend and enjoy healthy friendships
- Computing - after finishing off spreadsheets we will start to look at blogging
- Music - children will be developing greater accuracy in pitch and control, identifying pitches within an octave when singing and using knowledge of pitch to develop confidence when singing in parts

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

## **Core Texts**

The core text we will be reading this half term is: Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

## **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