

Welcome back - we hope you enjoyed some sunshine over the Easter Holidays!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be working on decimals and percentages and linking back to fractions to find equivalences. We will also be recapping on perimeter and area before moving onto converting units. Year 6 will be consolidating their knowledge and applying it through a range of problem solving activities. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term in English we will be working on creating a dialogue between characters using the stimulus 'Alma and the Dollmaker'. We will be using our descriptive language to set the scene, thinking about the figurative language appropriate to the audience. Next, we will use 'SEAT' (Speech, Emotion, Action, Thoughts) to characterise the speech the characters are using, thinking about the way we can create effect.

In Geography, we will be asking, 'Where does our energy come from?' To answer this, we will be learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources, where they come from and what their impact on society and the economy are.

In DT, our focus will be on Structure: Bridges - where we will test various types of bridge to determine their strength and stability and Electrical Systems: Doodlers - where we will explore circuits and introduce motors by investigating an existing motorised product.

In Science, Year 5 will be building on their knowledge of contact and non-contact forces and exploring gravity, friction air and water resistance and drawing on their work in DT to explore the effect of levers, pulleys and gears. In Year 6, the children will continue to study inherited and environmental characteristics patterns in humans and other species. They will be looking at natural selection and the degree of trust the world have on the theory of evolution.

We will also be doing:

- RE - we will be investigating concepts relating to death, exploring the ideas of reincarnation and karma and considering the question 'What happens when we die?'
- PE - Rounders and Athletics are our topics this half term
- PSHE - we will be talking about the importance of taking care of our mental health; understanding that there are different stages of grief and that there are different types of loss that cause people to grieve, and learning to recognise when people are trying to gain power or control
- Computing - children will be planning and making a story-based adventure game, working through the coding, debugging and improving elements
- Music - children will explore the musical concept of theme and variations and discover how rhythms can 'translate' onto different instruments

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: *The Goldfish Boy* - Lisa Thompson

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 - Wednesday 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