

Welcome back - we hope you enjoyed the half-term break!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be continuing with work on area and converting units before moving onto statistics and shape. Year 6 will continue to consolidate their learning 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 a recount of Hansel and Gretel's escape from the witch in the woods. This unit builds on our previous work describing the setting of her cottage in the woods and is inspired by Neil Gaiman's 'Hansel and Gretel'. The children will be modifying verbs and nouns, using subordinating conjunctions and writing a conclusion using rhetorical questions- phew!

In History, we will be looking at how the Sikh Empire began, describing the impact of Sikh beliefs on society during the Sikh empire and analysing different interpretations of the Sikh Empire.

In Art, we have two exciting units. In one, we will be learning about the feature of installation art and how it can communicate a message, exploring space and scale in 3D art and problem-solving in construction. In the other we will be investigating the built environment through drawing and printmaking, learning about the work of architect Zaha Hadid.

In Science, Year 5 will be studying human development and changes along a timeline, identifying key stages and considering data for normal growth. We will also be asking 'Does the size of an asteroid affect the diameter of its impact crater?' Children will explore the relationship between the size of model asteroids and the diameter of their impact craters.

In Year 6 Science, the children will be asking 'Are some sunglasses safer than others?' Exploring sun safety, the children will investigate the efficacy of different sunglasses devising enquiries to test and UV transmission.

We will also be doing:

- RE - we will be exploring how laws are created, the concept of succession, where religious laws come from and how leaders can be chosen for leadership characteristics
- PE - we are looking forward to Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, and Tennis this half-term
- PSHE - we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' unit this term. This is a sex education programme tailored to age and physical and emotional maturity. Details were sent out to all parents and carers before half term
- Computing - children will continue to plan and make a story-based adventure game, working through the coding, debugging and improving elements
- Music - children will be composing their own songs based on the types of music they like and their experiences

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: *Who let the Gods out* - Maz Evans

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