

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 writing instructions for 'How to Train Your Dragon' based on the book of the same name and non-chronological reports. Year 5 and 6 will be beginning a new spelling journey with Grammarsaurus. We will be reviewing bases/roots, suffixes and prefixes that support the writing of instructions. The children will receive word families as spelling for homework however, as we find our way with our new spelling scheme there will be no spelling tests until after Christmas. Use these spelling families as an opportunity to practise the new spelling skills learned at school with your children at home.

In History, children will be considering the question 'Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?' They will investigate what the Vikings were really like, create a Viking trade route game and make up their own version of Viking sagas.

In this drawing unit in Art, children will explore how artists express ideas and how they use scale to do so.

In Science, Year 5, will broaden 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 - children will consider the how people's experience of culture, history, geography and tradition influence their worldviews
- PE - Netball and Martial Arts Dance
- PSHE - children will celebrate differences, considering acceptance, inclusion, bullying, problem solving and giving and receiving compliments
- Computing - coding and Online Safety continue from last half term
- French - listening and language detective skills will be developed through a space theme
- Music - children will be introduced the famous genre of Blues and its history

Core Texts

The core text we will be reading this half term is: *Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* by Benjamin Dean

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). If you are able to, please provide children with a small pencil case to include a couple of pencils, a rubber (eraser), a pencil sharpener, a glue stick, a pair of child-friendly scissors, a selection of coloured pencils and a whiteboard pen.

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 - Tuesday and Thursday

Stingrays - Wednesday and Thursday

The teachers in our phase are:

Mrs Rochelle Stankowski - Dolphins Class teacher

Miss Claire Pollendine - Sharks Class teacher, Phase Leader

Mrs Gemma Lockley - Stingrays Class teacher

The adults supporting in our phase are:

Miss Sue Powell HLT A

Mrs Alison Cowling

Mrs Claire Brown

Mrs Lucy Donald