

Happy New Year and welcome back to school!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will be working on multiplication, division and fractions. Year 6 will be continuing to work on fractions as well as looking at algebra for the first time and problem solving with ratios. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term our English lessons will be writing a recount in the form of a diary entry based on the text *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold. The book is about a lonely girl called April who travels to a remote Arctic island and discovers the last surviving polar bear. As April secretly helps the weak and injured bear, a powerful friendship grows between them. The story explores themes of loneliness, trust, and the impact humans have on the natural world. The children will create a timeline of events and complete diary entries using an informal tone.

In Geography children will be asking the question, 'Why do our oceans matter?' They will learn about the importance of our oceans and consider some of the positive and negative influences humans have on these environments. Children will go on a short field study trip to investigate littering and pollution in our local river environments.

In DT, Year 5 be creating a functional pop-up book using levers, sliders, layers and spacers to create paper-based mechanisms; and 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 program to include multiple functions as part of a navigation device, with video instruction, opportunities to interpret exploded diagrams and time to explore different cam shapes.

In Science, Year 5 will be learning about forces and spaces, exploring day and night and the movement of the Earth, planets and the Moon. Year 6 will be exploring variation and inheritance in different living things and finding out how observations and fossil evidence have led to the theory of evolution.

We will also be doing:

- RE - children will be exploring significant religious and non-religious journeys and pilgrimages and asking, 'Is it better to be there in person?'
- PE - children will be learning about the basics of volleyball for the first time as well as improving their fitness with an indoor athletics unit.
- PSHE - the focus this term is on future self and thinking about dreams and goals for lifestyle and hobbies as well as investigating jobs and careers.
- Computing - spreadsheets, bullying and online reputation.
- French - this unit is all about the basic language skills needed to shop in France.
- Music - children will be combining singing, acting and dancing to cocreate an overall performance in this Musical Theatre unit.

## **Core Texts**

The core text we will be reading this half term is: The Boy at the back of the class Onjali Q. Raúf

## **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 - Wednesday 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 HLTA  
Mrs Alison Cowling  
Mrs Claire Brown  
Mrs Lucy Donald