

Welcome back!

In Maths this half term, Year 5 will continue to work on comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting fractions, before returning to multiplication and division. Year 6 will be looking at fractions, decimals & percentages and statistics. Both year groups will continue to work on their fluency skills.

This half term our English lessons will be dedicated to writing a setting description based on one for the moon of Pandora from the film Avatar. The children will be exploring ways to hook the reader by identifying what we might see and smell in this setting, using adverbs of place and manner to help the reader visualise the scene and including expanded noun phrases to give extra details.

In History children will be finding out what life was like in Tudor England. They will interpret sources to understand more about the character of Henry VIII; explore why he had many wives and find out how the Tudors monarchs used propaganda to present themselves as strong, wealthy and powerful.

In Art, we will be using paint and mixed media to look in more depth at two different artists, considering famous paintings, understanding how to find meaning in painting and understanding how art can tell stories.

In Science, Year 5 will be looking at life cycles and reproduction in plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects. They will also consider asexual reproduction in plants and complete root growth of a plant. Year 6 will be learning about circuits, batteries and switches. They will be able to name components and symbols in circuits as well as recognising the links between circuit components and resistance in circuits and identifying ways to change voltage within an electrical circuit.

We will also be doing:

- RE - children will use critical thinking skills to consider their own and others' ideas and about why there is suffering in the world.
- PE - children will be working on the skills in the team games of Handball and Quicksticks (a version of Hockey).
- PSHE - this half term's unit is 'Healthy Me' and we will be discussing taking responsibility for our health and wellbeing including managing stress and pressure and discussing choices that can affect our health.
- Computing - we will continue with spreadsheets before moving onto databases.
- French - the children will learn about where French is spoken in the world, as well as investigating the climate in the French-speaking world.
- Music - children will continue to build their singing, acting and dancing skills from last half term in the Musical Theatre unit to and produce an overall performance.

Core Texts

The core text we will be reading this half term is: 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross McKenzie.

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: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO SHARKS DAYS

Dolphins - Tuesday and Thursday

Sharks - Tuesday and Thursday

Stingrays - Wednesday and Friday

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