



## Year 5 Spring Term 2019

Welcome back for 2019.

It is an exciting term for us in Year 5, with lots of fantastic topics and themes to cover across the curriculum, as well as the class residential trip in April; please return reply slips for this as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

We have already had an enjoyable start to the term with our topic focus days. Our theme has been "Where does all our stuff come from?" and we have mapped the journeys that some products we use make, as well as investigating the impact that Fair Trade has on workers around the world. The children are keen to tell you more about this during our class assembly, which will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, just in time for Fairtrade Fortnight.

### Book Corner

I am delighted by the enthusiasm the class has for reading at the moment; many of the children came back to school excited to show their new books to each other and to me. They are keen to share book recommendations with one another and showed real enjoyment of our class reader last term. We have worked together to create a comfy and inviting book corner, and the children were very lucky to receive some snuggly cushions from Santa to enhance this. They also voted on three new books for the classroom: **The Ice Monster** by David Walliams, **Simple The Quest** by Maz Evans (the second in the **Who Let The Gods Out** series) and **Tom Gates: What Monster?** There is already a waiting list for each of these books!

If you have any old cushions/beanbags/blankets, or of course, books, that you no longer use, we would be very grateful of them for the book corner.

This term the children will be following the same timetable as in Autumn term, with Sport and Forest School on a Wednesday afternoon. Our Arts lessons during first half term will be dedicated to an exciting DT project.

### Maths

During the first half term, we will be working with fractions: adding, subtracting, multiplying, comparing/ordering and converting to find equivalent fractions.

During the second half term, we will be working with decimals: adding, subtracting, comparing and rounding to the nearest whole number and to one decimal place. We will also start to learn about percentage.

We will continue to have a mini-test every two weeks, on a Monday.

On a Friday, Year 5 complete a division test, as they should already know all of their times tables up to 12X12 – please practise at home if necessary!

**Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.**

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### *Maths Homework*

As before, Year 5 will have Maths homework every week, on a Wednesday (starting on Wednesday 23rd Jan), alternating between:

- a practice copy of the test that we will do on the following Monday.
- following the test, the children will bring home a named test sheet, with any questions that they need to answer highlighted. This test sheet should be handed in on Monday.

### English

This half-term we are going to be reading a range of poems and examining various poetic devices, and of course afterwards we will be creating our own poems. Our non-fiction theme will be persuasive writing.

After half-term we will be reading some stories and extracts from well-known children's writers, based around a short story by Jeremy Strong. We will also be looking at biographies and autobiographies of some children's authors, before writing one of our own.

### *English Homework*

Homework for English will continue to be set every other Wednesday. This week, the children have been set a topic-based homework task, which is due in on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January. The next homework from their orange homework book will be set on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

The children should continue to read every day; their reading records are checked on a Friday, and their reading should be recorded by an adult at least five times a week.

The children have been given spelling books in which they record any spellings that they have got wrong in their writing or in their spelling practice books. They should be practising these regularly over the week, and I will be encouraging them to practise using those words in their writing. I have attached this term's spellings from the practice book.

### Science

This half-term, we will be continuing the topic of the properties and changes of materials; we enjoyed some of the experiments in this topic last half-term, such as investigating insulation and the best ways to keep materials hot or cold. We will carry out further investigations into the electrical conductivity of materials and dissolving and separating mixtures.

We will then move on to the topic of living things and their habitats, learning about life cycles and reproduction; a perfect topic for the arrival of Spring!

### Learning Behaviours in Year 5

A huge well done to those children who have already received their bronze awards for showing each of these learning behaviours, and to those who are nearly there. There are also several children who are well on their way to receiving a silver award, so keep a look out in the school newsletter for more Year 5 names! You can see which behaviours your child is displaying regularly and which they need to work on by asking them to show you which stickers they have received so far.



Risk taker		I can go out of my comfort zone and try something new.
Keeping going		I know that making and understanding my mistakes will help me to learn.
Aiming high		I know what I need to do to take my learning further.
Motivated and engaged		I will focus on what I am doing and always try my hardest.
Taking responsibility		I will have what I need ready for the day and maintain a positive environment.
Respect		I value myself, others, property and the wider community.
Team player		I know that not everybody will think the same as me but I can share ideas and value others.

I have very much enjoyed working with Year 5 so far and am looking forward to this term and all the new adventures and challenges it brings. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs Whiffin.

