



10th January 2020

Year 5 Spring Term 2020

Dear Y5 Parents/Carers

Welcome back for 2020.

First, I would just like to say thank you to the class for a wonderful first term. I am really enjoying teaching them and feel very proud of the brilliant attitudes they have shown to their learning and the excellent work they have completed, while showing kindness and friendship to one another every day.

We have already had an enjoyable start to the term with our topic focus days. This half-term is a Geography topic, comparing cities in the UK, Europe and America. The children have learnt about the location of cities in the UK and Europe and have chosen one to research.

Book Corner

I am delighted by the enthusiasm the class has for reading; 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. The book corner monitors have created a rota so they can all have a turn in the book corner during Accelerated Reader time.

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.

Spring Term Curriculum

This term the children will be following the same timetable as in Autumn term, with Sport and Forest School on a Wednesday afternoon. This term we have an exciting opportunity in Music: we will be taking part in an Opera at Holyrood on Friday April 24th after school, so keep the date free. The preliminary workshop will take place at school on 22nd January and there will be a further cast workshop in March. We will be practising for this show in Music lessons. The children will also be having lessons in African Drumming with Miss Morton.

In French, we will be learning to describe places in town, to fit in with our Geography topic.

Maths

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

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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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!

Maths Homework

As before, Year 5 will have Maths homework every week (starting on Wednesday 22nd January), on a Wednesday, 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, so we will be creating brochures for some of the cities we have learned about to persuade people to visit them.

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 based around people involved in Space, to go along with our Science topic for this term.

English Homework

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. Some of the children are not in the habit of regularly recording their reading: I will be emailing parents individually if I am regularly not seeing five weekly reads recorded.

The children should continue to use their red books to practise their weekly spellings and other spellings they need to learn. They should be practising these regularly over the week, and I will be encouraging them to practise using those words in their writing. I love to see the creative ways many of them find to practise spelling words and do share with them good examples I see, so well done to those children.

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 then move on to a topic that I know many of them are looking forward to: "Earth and Space," during which we will be exploring the solar system



PSHE

Our theme for this half-term is “Keeping Myself Safe,” in which we will be looking at what risk is and examining things that might influence people to engage in risky behaviour, including online. We will think about the decision-making process when faced with risky situations

In the second half of term, we will be thinking about “Rights and Responsibilities”, and how these change as we grow older, at home and at school as well as in the wider community.

Learning Behaviours in Year 5

A huge well done to those children who have already received badges 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 further awards, 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 am looking forward to this term and all the new adventures and challenges it brings. Thank you for you continuing support.

Mrs Whiffin.

