

Dear parents and carers of Hazel Class,

Welcome back for the new year. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday. Thank you for the cards, gifts and well wishes that I received before we broke up. It was a busy and fun-packed end to last term and I'm sure the children were well ready for a break. They had a fantastic first term in Year 5 and continue to amaze and impress me with their positive attitudes to learning and the way they continually support and show kindness to one another, so I am very much looking forward to the coming term with them.

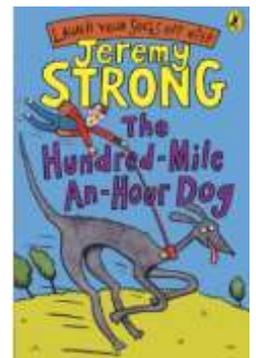
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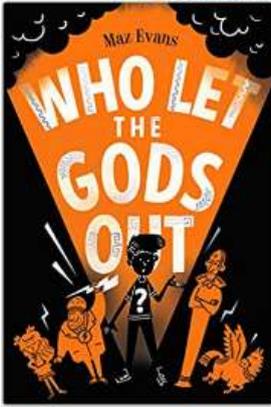
Children will be taking part in a variety of team sports on Tuesdays with Mrs Churchill, and we will be doing dance, gymnastics and multiskills on Friday afternoons. There will also be some sports fixtures taking place during the term: children will receive a letter when they are invited to take part in these.

English

This half-term we are going to be reading and performing a range of poems and creating our own poems. Our non-fiction theme will be persuasive writing on the theme of caring for our planet.

After half-term we will be reading some stories and extracts from the well-known children's writer, Jeremy Strong: he has written a wide range of humorous books and the children would benefit from reading or sharing some of these at home- we have many in our school library. They will be having a go at writing in his style, so the more they read, the better! We will also be looking at biographies and autobiographies, before writing one of our own.





Our class reader for this term is the hilarious *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans. This is the first in a series and will build on the children's interest in Greek gods, goddesses and myths that they demonstrated when we learnt about Pandora's box last term. If you would like a recommendation for home reading that will go well alongside our class reading, the *Percy Jackson* series is an excellent adventure series that also features a range of Greek gods and goddesses.

The children should continue to practise on SpellingFrame every week and record their daily reading in their reading records.

Maths

This term we will be:

- *practising the formal multiplication method (for multiplying any two whole numbers)
- *learning the formal method for division
- *consolidating our understanding of fractions from the Autumn Term and learning how to multiply fractions and find fractions of amounts
- *learning about angles: recognising/naming angles, measuring angles with a protractor, calculating angles on straight lines and around a point

It is really important that the children continue to practise their times tables regularly on TT Rockstars or MathsFrame.

There will be a maths parent workshop very soon, so please do come along!

Science

Children will continue to be taught science by Mrs Bayley. They will be learning about life processes of animals and plants in biology, changing materials in chemistry and forces in physics.

Topic and Arts

In geography this half term, we will be learning about natural resources, why they are important to us and where they come from. In history, we will be exploring the Victorians and examining the differences between the lives of the poor and the rich, as well as thinking about how and why cities changed during the Victorian era. Our RE focus is on Judaism and learning about some practices and lifestyles associated with its beliefs.

We began learning clothes and colours vocabulary in French and we will be putting these together to describe outfits. We will also learn how to give simple opinions in French.

In art, we are going to finish our still life project by creating a still life collage. Later in the term, we will be working with clay. In DT, we will be learning about pulleys and gears and using them in our own design and build. Our music this term is based around the Hindu festival of Holi, listening to and composing music linked with colours.

PSHE

During this half-term, we will be thinking about keeping safe, exploring ways to navigate risky situations. During the second half-term, we will be learning about growing and change, including ensuring that the children are prepared for the changes that can take place to their bodies and emotions during puberty.

Residential Trip in April

There will be an information meeting on Wednesday 22nd February at 3.45pm and a further one at 5.30pm; please come along to one of them if your child is coming on the trip, or let me know if you are unable to attend.

Thank you for your continued support. Please always do contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning,

Mrs Whiffin