

Year 5 Newsletter – Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers:

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome back to the new school year. We hope that you all had a very enjoyable and restful summer break. It really is a pleasure for us to be teaching your children again. We are all very much looking forward to focusing on the year ahead.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information.

In **English**, we will begin by reading a classic text by William Shakespeare; *The Scottish Play - Macbeth*. Through reading this book as a whole class, we will be exploring why Shakespeare's work remains popular in today's modern world. We will be creating our own poems with a focus on rhyming couplets influenced by 'The Witches Song'. We will also be writing a diary entry and a suspenseful text from Lady Macbeth's point of view. Additionally, we will be focusing on key grammar and punctuation skills.

This year, we will also be putting a lot of focus on **reading**. We will have separate **Destination Reader** sessions, which will involve explicitly teaching reading strategies, such as clarifying, inferring, predicting, questioning, summarising and making connections with the wider world. Please try to encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible and, wherever possible, please take the time to read with your child.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will include place value and securing strategies for addition and subtraction. We will also be solving word problems and developing our ability to reason and explain using clear mathematical language. Children will also be practising mental math strategies and arithmetic. **Children will be tested on their times tables on a weekly basis.**

Our **History** topic will be Henry VIII and The Tudors. We will be learning all about the history of the Tudors, including topics such as; Tudor dress, crime and punishment, diseases in Tudor Britain, and the life of Tudor children.

In **Science**, our topic will be "Living things and their habitats". We will be learning to explain the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. We will also be exploring asexual and sexual reproduction in plants.



In Year 5, in **French** this term, we will be learning to describe the weather. Additionally, we will learn about family members in the context of Henry VIII. We will be practising phonics and saying, reading and writing sentences to ask for and give classroom items. E.g., Do you have a pen, please? Yes, here you are! / No, I'm sorry, I don't have a pen.

In **Music**, our topic for this term is 'life cycles. Children will learn to sing in multiple parts, read melodies from staff notation and accompany songs with percussion instruments. They will also be composing and combining their own vocal melodies. We are finalising arrangements for the after-school music tuition and will let you know the arrangements as soon as they are sorted with THAMES.

In **PSHE**, our topic is 'being me in my world.' We will be looking at our aspirations and goals for the year ahead, as well as our rights and responsibilities, and the value of rewards and consequences.

In **Computing**, we will be looking at the very important topic of online safety and sharing information. In addition, we will be creating media through capturing, reviewing and editing video content.

In **DT**, we will be designing and making cupcakes. We will consider the impact of different packaging and develop our own design criteria to inform our own design.

Finally, our "big question" in **Religious Education** this term is: *What do the miracles of Jesus teach us?* In this unit, we will explore the definition of a miracle and who can perform miracles. We will question if people have to visit specific places for miracles to happen or whether it is a question of faith. We will make contrasts/comparisons between what we are learning and our own individual beliefs.

P.E. will be on **Thursday** mornings. Please ensure your child comes into school wearing the correct kit on Thursday.

Homework will be set on a half termly basis. The activities are optional. The spellings and times tables are compulsory and will be tested on a weekly basis in class. Children should also ready daily.

We are really looking forward to teaching year 5 and we think that we will have a great year together! If there is anything that you wish to talk to us about, please do let us know.

Best wishes,

Mr Griffiths, Miss Budden, Lou, Rita and Natalie

