



November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful half-term break and that you're feeling ready for the busy half term ahead!

Curriculum

English – We will be focusing on poetry this half term, using *Falling from the Sky*, an anthology of poems about myths and monsters from various cultures (particularly the myths of ancient Greece). In this topic, the children will look in depth at various poems. They will practise performing poems and will also write their own poetry inspired by particular poems from our focus text.

History – We have moved on to our next topic: Anglo Saxon Britain. In this topic, we will learn about the arrival of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes to Britain; the reasons for their migration and the impact they had on life here. The topic will progress to learn about how Britain was divided into seven kingdoms, and to explore the spread of Christianity in the British Isles.

Geography – We have moved on to our next topic: Oceans. We will learn about the difference between the sea and an ocean, identify the five oceans of the world, explore salinity, maritime trade, and ocean currents. We will also focus on oceans and climate change and how human behaviour is affecting our oceans.

Science – We have moved on to our next topic: 'Forces'. Building on children's previous learning of forces, we will focus on gravity, air resistance and water resistance.

Maths – All maths groups are moving on to multiplication and division this half term. Please keep referring to the weekly overview for more specific information.

Religions and worldviews – We are continuing to learn about Islam, with a focus on the Five Pillars of the Islamic faith. This half term will focus on: sawm and Ramadan, Zakah and the Hajj pilgrimage. Throughout our explorations of the faith and what it means to be a Muslim, we will continue to make connections with other faiths and also non-religious beliefs.

Reading – Children will read in small group guided reading workshops. Some children will have a school reading book to take home, selected by their class teacher. Please ensure that if your child is given a school reading book, that they bring this to and from school every day, as they may require it for additional reading practice at school. Please also ensure to read this book with them at home.

We would really like to emphasise the importance of continuing to listen to your child reading aloud at home, even if they are able to read confidently independently. It is incredibly beneficial to your child in terms of developing their comprehension, vocabulary and ability to read with tone and expression.

Music – We are soon to record our part of the whole school performance of Stormzy's 'Blinded by Your Grace'! We are also learning Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer', with a more general focus on the classic rock genre.

PSHE – We will continue with the topic: Family and Relationships. Moving on from our focus on friendships last half term, this half term we will learn about the importance of self-respect and how this affects happiness and decision-making. We will also learn that sometimes family relationships may make children feel unhappy and we will be supporting children to understand what they can do if this happens.

Design & Technology – We will be having a D&T day this half term! The children will learn to make pop-up books!

Computing – We will finish off learning about search engines and conducting research online, and will then move on to a new topic about music programming. Alongside this, we will continue to teach children about how to stay safe online.

PE kits

We encourage all children to take part in as much sport and physical activity as possible but the health and safety of our children is our first concern. Therefore, we must insist that all children follow our PE kit guidelines. All children should come into school wearing their P.E kits on their P.E days. Our recommended kit consists of t-shirt, shorts/tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls/trainers. Your child may also want a jumper for wearing outside in cold weather. Jewellery and watches must be removed before your child participates in any PE lessons. All long hair should be tied back.

If your child is not wearing the suitable clothing, they will have to wear one of our spare kits supplied by the school or may have to miss out on the P.E lesson. If your child is prone to forgetting to wear the correct P.E kit, please leave some spare clothes/shoes in a labelled bag on their peg.

We look forward to having a wonderful (and busy) half term.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5 Team