

Langtree Community School and Nursery Unit

September 2018

Dear Parents,

I am sure the children are delighted to be back at school after our summer break and are ready for the challenges of a new year!

This letter is designed to give you information on the topics being studied by your child, this term. If you would like to discuss the topics in more detail please feel free to call in for a chat.

Literacy:

This term, Year 5 will be examining the short story: *The Shadow Cage* (Philippa Pearce). They will learn the key features of storytelling and use these as they write their own version of a story, creating suspense. The children will go on to examine and create promotional material to sell an item (eg: a car). Later in the term, year 5 will study *The Secrets of Stonehenge* - examining what it is made of and what it might have been used for.

Homework ideas: Reading for 20 minutes each day, and discussing the text, is very important. Practising writing, using a variety of punctuation (see glossary) will also be helpful.

Read newspapers and magazines - discussing the language and style.

Shakespeare:

On Wednesday, November 21st we will be watching a live broadcast of *Romeo and Juliet* (recorded at the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon). In the weeks leading up to this we will be examining the story and its characters.

Numeracy:

Year 5 will use a range of strategies to solve multiplication problems. They will also use their knowledge of multiplication tables to help them with division. Year 5 will be investigating fractions. They will look for equivalent fractions and begin to convert mixed number to improper fractions. They will also find the fraction of a whole number (once again linking this to their knowledge of multiplication tables).

Year 5 will be reading and interpreting data from a range of charts and tables. They will also be classifying triangles and quadrilaterals, moving on to investigate lines of symmetry in 2D shapes.

The children will also solve a range of 'real-life' problems involving time, money and measurement.

Ideas for useful homework are included in your child's homework book.

Help with baking, shopping and solving problems involving money, time and measurement are also useful.

Science:

Our science topic this term will be: Living Things and Their Habitats. The children will describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

After half term we will be examining the properties of a variety of materials.

Use the internet (or even a book, like we used to) to discover more about life cycles. Make a note of anything you find interesting and be ready to share it with the class.

History:

Our History topic this term will cover the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor. This will include Viking raids and invasion, Alfred the Great, Anglo-Saxon laws and justice and the battle of 1066.

Use a reference book (or the internet) to find out about Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. Where did they come from? What did they leave behind when they left England?

Computing:

This term, Year 5 will be experimenting with programming, using 'if' and 'then' commands to select an action. They will decompose a problem into smaller parts to design an algorithm for a specific outcome and use this to write a program.

As the term goes on I plan to recommend programs that can be downloaded and used for practise at home (if you are able to do so). Practising keyboard skills and file management are obviously very useful.

PE:

This term, Year 5 will be developing skills in hockey - with a focus on passing and receiving the ball.

Try to be active for 1 hour each day. See your child's homework book for a website with more useful information.

RE:

This term, the focus for RE will continue to be a study of world religions - paying particular attention to festivals, beliefs and places of worship.

There is a useful website on BBC Schools with plenty of information on world religions.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion>

Design and Technology:

This term Year 5 will be investigating different forms of energy, considering the differences between kinetic and potential energy. The children will use pistons and valves to create a buggy. They will use cams and investigate other ways of controlling energy.

Can you make a model at home with moving parts? Be ready to discuss it in class...

Helping with baking is always really useful.

Homework:

The children will be given homework each week, usually to support our work in English or maths. Year 5 children are expected to complete 30 minutes of 'useful' homework each day, which is designed to help them learn. The homework book is full of **more** manageable ideas to encourage your child to achieve this goal.

Please ensure that Homework books are returned by Thursday, at the latest.

If you do have any questions to ask me about how you can help your child during this term's work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nigel Smale