

9th January 2017

CLASS 5 SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a lovely break - thank you so much for the generous gifts and cards.

Our topic this half term is 'Can you feel the force?', which will provide exciting opportunities for cross curriculum learning linking our Science work on forces to Design Technology, English, Computing and the Star Wars Theme - May the Force be with you!

The Spring Term Curriculum in Class 5

English

We will be looking at explanation and instructional texts and link this to our Science work on Forces. Grammar targets will focus on using a wider range of higher level punctuation and accuracy using cohesive devices such as colons, semi-colons, adverbials and conjunctions to link different ideas within complex sentences in writing. I would like children to make an extra effort with spelling and in the presentation of all their work this term and expect handwriting to be neatly and carefully joined in all written work including homework and spelling sentences. I have set the children a spelling challenge to score 10 out of 10 for ten consecutive weeks. Those who achieve this will receive a special award. I highly recommend the children read a range of genres of books including fiction and non-fiction - the local Calverton library is a great resource for free books!

Maths

Learning follows the National Curriculum. Key concepts include written methods for multiplication involving decimals, division methods and problem solving using all four operations (+/-/x/÷). Decimal numbers in the context of measures and money will be taught, as well as finding the fractions of larger numbers. We will be focusing a lot of work on fractions and targets include converting between improper fractions & mixed numbers, comparing and ordering fractions with common multiples, naming common equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions that have denominators that are multiples of a number and multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers.

Children will also complete weekly mental Maths tests and do regular times table and division tests. Following positive feedback from children about the use of Mathletics online learning portal, I will continue to encourage children to use Mathletics for homework each week at home to support their learning in school. Has your child earned a silver or gold certificate yet?

Science

Our first Science topic is 'Can you feel the force?' Children will explore the forces of gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance. Mechanical devices will be investigated and there will be opportunities for construction. Later in Spring Term, will focus on 'Changing State' and explore the question 'Could you be the next CSI investigator?'. Children will learn to name and

describe examples of the main processes associated with water changing state and recognise that these processes can be reversed; explain the water cycle in terms of these processes; use patterns in data to make predictions and explain how changing conditions affects processes such as evaporation and condensation. Using practical investigations children will learn to describe some methods (e.g. filtration, distillation) that are used to separate simple mixtures, using scientific terms.

Computing and Design Technology

We will be exploring and investigating stable structures and look at designing models of the Jedi Council building which are able to bare weight. A range of media will be explored to build 3D structures. An art overall or old shirt needs to be kept in school.

Computing lessons will look at coding and controlling devices.

PE

This term we will be learning the skills and techniques for Basketball. Class 5 will also have Rugby lessons with Mr Turner. Weather-permitting, all rugby lessons will be taught outside so it is advised that children have their school tracksuit available in school during these colder months. Please ensure PE kit and trainers are in school at all times..

RE

In RE this term we will be looking at lessons which focus on exploring values and Easter. We also have a visit to the Riverside Church centre for a "Bible comes to life" exhibition in Southwell on Monday 20th February. More details follow below.

In music we will be learning about Jazz and in French learning about our health.

General Information

Children will be given Mathletics maths homework every Friday and it must be completed by the following Thursday. As this is an online learning portal children will receive immediate feedback as to whether or not their answers are correct, it also enables class teachers to monitor the children's usage and accuracy remotely.

Spellings will continue to be tested on a Wednesday and new words issued weekly. Children must bring their home spelling book to school on Wednesday; this is also where they can practice spellings and write their words in sentences to show they understand the meaning of the words. This is important for vocabulary development as well as spelling. Please encourage your child to complete the spelling, punctuation and grammar activities on these free webpages.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/reading/poetry/read/1/>

These are really short activities but can really make a difference.

Please support your child with their twenty minutes of daily reading by reading together, encouraging reading independently and monitoring your child's reading diary.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs K. Chadbourne, Class 5 teacher

Maths meeting for parents

We would like to welcome and encourage you to attend an information meeting for parents about maths on **Tuesday 17th January at 5pm**. The meeting will help parents in supporting their child with maths and explain the expectations and standards for each year group. If you are interested in supporting your child with maths, this is a great place to start.

Please let the office know if you are intending to attend. Thank you.

Class 5 visit to the Riverside Church Centre

We will be taking class 5 on a visit to Riverside Church centre for a "Bible comes to life" exhibition in Southwell on Monday 20th February. The exhibition is run by members of the church who will use drama to bring stories from the bible to life for the children. Children will be transported to the venue and back by minibus. We will use both the school minibus and the church have a minibus too.

On the day the children will come to school in uniform at the usual time. They will need a coat in case it rains but no other equipment. We will return to school before lunch time so children can keep to their usual lunch arrangements.

Please return the permission slip to the school office by Wednesday 15th February 2017.

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To Mrs Chadbourne

I give permission for my child..... to attend the Class 5 visit to Riverside Church Centre on Monday 20th February 2017.

Signed.....