

9th January 2018

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! Our curriculum drivers are our community, hope, the environment and wisdom.

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. In September I set the children a spelling challenge to score 10 out of 10 for ten consecutive weeks and a number of children have work incredibly hard to achieve this. The challenge will continue this term so please try extra hard. 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 this term 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.

Art 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

Computing lessons will look at coding and controlling devices.

The children will also take part in lessons about staying safe online and avoiding child sexual exploitation online. We follow a program designed for upper key stage 2 children called Alright Charlie which is age appropriate and sensitively put together. If you would like more information, please see the web link <http://assets.mesmac.co.uk/images/Professional-Guidance-22Feb2016.pdf?mtime=20160331135613>

PE

This term we will be learning the skills and techniques for Basketball. Class 5 will also have Hockey lessons with Mr Turner. Weather-permitting, all hockey lessons will be taught outside so it is advised that children have their school tracksuit available in school during these colder months. Please ensure a PE kit which includes spare socks and trainers are in school at all times. (A plastic bag for dirty trainers is helpful too).

RE

In RE this term we will be looking at lessons which focus on the themes of God's love and holiness, and justice. Children will focus their learning on the key question 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' when they learn about the importance of Easter in Christianity.

Music and French

In music the learning is focused around one song: Make You Feel My Love covered by Adele. The material presents an integrated approach to music where games, elements of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc), singing and playing instruments are all linked. In French we will be learning about our health.

General Information

Children will be given Mathematics 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 Monday and new words issued weekly. Children must bring their home spelling book to school on Monday; 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.

We are pleased to inform you that Miss Cadman and Miss Long will be covering my maternity leave in April. We will work together to ensure a smooth transition for the class. It is my intention to stay with Class 5 for as long as possible up to the end of the Spring Term.

Kindest Regards

Mrs K. Chadbourne, Class 5 teacher