



Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2 - Year 5

Welcome back to Autumn Term 2 - the run up, dare I say it, to Christmas! Yes this is a busy half term where we have lots to be getting on with but also lots to prepare for the festival season! Here's a snapshot of what we're up to and on the back, you'll find some advice on how you can help your child.

English: This half term the children will be using image, poetry and stories to inspire their writing. We shall start off with a thoughtful look into WWI, we shall study images of poppies and significant poetry inspired by the Great War. We shall then write our own poems in a similar style. We shall also be writing in role and remembering the sacrifices many thousands of people made for our country 100 years ago. I am then going to use the Shadow of Blue, which is a beautiful animation that mixes together models and real life to create a stunning visual effect

Maths: We have a lot to fit in this half term with more graphs and tables in our statistics lessons plus more on written methods for division and multiplication. Our times tables will be own show again, so please keep going with the practice at home - we'll look at factors and multiples, fractions – including equivalents, common denominators and adding/subtracting fractions.

D&T: We will be designing and making our own mobile phone cases using felt and embellishments. This is a real hands-on activity and I would love to know whether anyone has an hour to spare on a Wednesday afternoon starting from the 21st of November. We'll need help from around 2:15-3:15pm - sewing, cutting and threading skills are a bonus but not essential - patience and enthusiasm are a must! Please let me know if you or perhaps a grandparent are interested by emailing me at emma.barker@netherthongprimary.co.uk

Other Information: PE kits should be in school every day and **children with earrings need to bring in tape to cover their ears or take jewellery out during the session.** IXL homework will be issued on a Friday to be completed by a Thursday. Spellings will go out on a Monday and tested on a Friday and then the following Friday with two unseen words which follow the same spelling rule.

Science and computing: This half term our topic is 'Material World'. We will begin by testing the properties of different materials before looking at how materials dissolve. We will then be finding out about evaporation. Finally, we will compare reversible and irreversible changes. In Computing, we will be revisiting the very important topic, e-safety. We will learn how to stay safe whilst online and create our own comic superheroes to spread these messages, using the PurpleMash software.

PE: We'll be learning about netball skills with the Sports Partnership plus Mrs Kendal will be building on the children's skills from last half term with some multi-sport sessions. Please ensure PE kits are in school every day as often we can encounter 'bonus' PE sessions and training from the High School. Also ensure children have suitable zip up tops, trainers and warmer clothes now the weather is turning cold.

Topic: During our Geography lessons, we will be learning about compass points and using them to direct and be directed. We will also be looking closely at the different regions and cities that make up the UK.

PSHE: This half term we will be looking at personal goals, high aspirations, complex and conflicting emotions, change and transition, plus keeping safe - wellbeing, including staying safe with mobile phones.

Important Dates:
We'll be starting to learn our Christmas musical along with the Year 6 children, the children may bring home song lyrics and dialogue for the play - please help them to learn their lines.
22nd November - Family Sharing
7th December - Winter Fayre



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How to help your child at home

As teachers we are constantly on the lookout for improving pupils' writing. One technique that I have been using successfully for a few years is DADWAVERS! It is a mnemonic which stands for:

Description

Action

Dialogue

Where

Adverb

Verb

Estimation of time

Rhetorical Question

Simile or Metaphor

Each of these are sentence starters, changing the sentence opening often alters the whole sentence structure. The children use the starters in order. Once they are secure they use them out of order. We have used this technique in many genres and shall be using it again this half term. I hope the children could explain this technique to you for their holiday homework - I've really enjoyed reading their work. Here's an example of DADWAVERS used in a letter of complaint:



Letter of Complaint

D I am writing to complain about my recent, diabolical visit to your so-called 'high-class' restaurant.

A I arrived at 'The Hey Green' just before the reservation time, only to find that the table had been double booked. **D** "You'll have to wait at least an hour," proclaimed the rude waiter, without apologising. We had to wait in the over-crowded bar area for an hour and a half before we were seated. **A** Unfortunately, we were given a table next to the toilets and this was most off-putting. **V** Smelling the potent smells that protruded from the lavatories was not ideal, I can tell you!

We ordered our meal straight **E** away, but again we had to wait a ridiculous amount of time before our food arrived. **R** What on earth was going on in that kitchen? When the meal finally came, the starters were **S** as cold as ice and not fit for eating. We did not wait to see what further disasters could arise - we simply walked out.

I would like a full explanation as to why we experienced such horrendous service, such sub-standard food and miscommunication about our booking. The more I think about this, the angrier I become!