

Spring Term Newsletter 5/6M



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term! It's great to see the children get off to such a great start and to have so many children reading so avidly at home. 5/6M is a really creative class and we've already had some super poetry and diary writing on the Moon Man, our current book in English. Do ask your child about the Moon Man's escape plans and why he's viewed as an invader! We've also made a good start to our work on fractions; please take every opportunity to share (!) how we use fractions in everyday life as this will really help to support our work in class.

We have a lot going on every day, but here are some of the areas we will work on until Easter:

Topic	<p>We'll start our work on the Vikings after half term. We'll be learning about where the Vikings came from, how they travelled, and why they came to Britain. We'll also be exploring how they changed our country and Yorkshire in particular. The Viking Sagas, packed with warriors, monsters and zombies, will really bring this topic to life in English as well.</p> 
English	<p>We're currently exploring the Moon Man by the amazing storyteller and illustrator, Tomi Ungerer. Our English units now focus on one specific text for a 2-3 week period. The early stages of our units are very much geared around reading and responding, often through drama or art. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be taught as part as part of these units and sometimes as separate sessions. Spelling Shed logins have been issued to all children so they can practise spelling at home. Please remind children to revisit word lists from previous years as well as that for years 5 and 6.</p>

Reading	Children read daily in class and also participate in guided reading sessions that build fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Reading daily at home with your child will really assist them with their fluency and understanding. Please ask questions about what they are reading (fiction and non-fiction), get them to think of their own questions and find unfamiliar words together. An old dictionary or thesaurus can be picked up for a couple of pounds in charity shops. Please do ask your child to complete their reading record on a daily basis. Records are checked every Friday and it gives me a great insight into reading preferences.
Maths	After our work on place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), we are now exploring fractions. Any opportunities to work with fractions practically at home (sharing pizzas, noticing fractions of amounts in recipes, etc.) would really help their understanding and problem-solving. We also have one arithmetic session per week.
Science	<p>This half term we are learning about the Earth in space. We have already worked to understand the relative sizes of the Sun, Earth and Moon and the distances between them. We are excited to be going on our trip to Jodrell Bank Observatory next Wednesday, but in the meantime look out for a Blood Moon lunar eclipse (the last one until 2029) in the news.</p> 
PE	<p>5/6 M's PE sessions will be on Tuesday (outdoor) and Friday (indoor).</p> <p>Please remember to include long-sleeved tops and tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE as it can be cold.</p>
Art and Design	In art, the children will work collaboratively to produce a display for our work on Moon Man. We will also be entering a 'Design a Planet' competition. After half term, we will be sewing Viking embroidery designs.

Once again, many thanks for your support with homework, spellings and learning log work. Spellings will come home weekly and will either address a particular pattern or some of the Year 5/6 statutory words. Maths or grammar homework will follow on from the week's work in class.

Please catch me at the end of the day or get in touch with any questions or queries.

Very best wishes,

Jenny McKay