

Dear Parents/carers,

May we start by wishing you a very happy new year and we hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas.

This letter will give you some important information about Class 5 routines (for **Year 4** and **Year 5** children) and the topics we will be covering this term.

Topics this term

This term has a strong geography focus and is entitled 'Location, Location, Location.' During the first half term we will be focusing on exploring the cities, landmarks and physical features that make up the United Kingdom. This will lead to further exploration in the second half term as we apply our understanding to the rest of Europe. During this first half term we will be exploring the use of water colour as a medium in art, learning about travel in French and Judaism in RSE.

English Year 5

In English the children will be creating dual narrative texts based on the theme of the hunter and the hunted. We will also be looking at poetry based on our learning of the United Kingdom. In the second half term we will be looking at writing chapters in a similar vein to *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne.

English Year 4

This term year 4 will be focussing on 'Saving our Habitats'. Using this theme as a starter, the children will debate this topic and use their arguments to write a persuasive report based on their own viewpoint. After learning how to make bird food (feeders) and animal homes, the children will write a set of instructions and will produce an information leaflet detailing 'How to attract more wildlife into your garden'. We will also be reading the story of 'Watership Down' by Richard Adams, and the children will adapt the plot, characters and scene settings to write their own short descriptive narrative of their own.

Maths Years 4 and 5

Maths sessions will continue to follow the White Rose Maths schemes of learning. Over the course of the spring term Year 5 will be focusing on multiplication & division and fractions. Year 4 will be covering Multiplication, division, measurement and statistics. In order to be successful, it is incredibly important that the children have a secure understanding of their time tables. Please support them with their revision using their challenge sheets that have been sent home with the weekly homework (Year 5) and by regular use of TT Rockstars (Year 4).

Science Year 5

The Science topic this half term is 'Living things and their habitats. Next half term our Science topic is will be looking at famous scientists & inventors and how they have influenced the world.

Science Year 4

The science topic this half term is 'Living Things & Their Habitats'. The children will conduct surveys of wildlife in their local habitats and use keys to group and classify vertebrates and invertebrates. They will also look at the effect that environmental changes can have on living things and their habitats.

In the second half term the science topic will be 'Electricity'. The children will look at electrical devices in and around the home (mains and battery), focussing on safety. They will then investigate how to make a bulb turn on and off by constructing a simple circuit and explore the use of conductors and insulators.

Homework

Homework for Year 5 will be handed out on a Monday and should be returned on the following Friday. I hope this move will allow for the children to relax over the weekend and give them more opportunities to discuss any problems with me. This time frame for homework will be trialled up to half term. Any decision for future homework will be made with/by the children. Reading diaries should be submitted every Friday along with the homework.

Homework for Year 4 will continue to be set on a Thursday and handed in on Tuesday. This was the preferred system for parents to allow maximum flexibility on homework completion. If this poses a problem, please see Miss Tucker. Reading records should be handed into Mrs. Butcher on a Monday morning.

Homework will consist of spellings, maths (linked to what is being taught that week) and reading. The expectation is that your child is listened to read at least four times a week. This will gain your child a raffle ticket and all reads will contribute to our year group total. At the time of writing Year 5 are leading the way and Mr. Thompson hopes this continues throughout the rest of the term. However, Miss Tucker would be thrilled if the year 4s could challenge them for leadership. Reading is such an important skill and for those that are achieving the target number of reads it has already making a noticeable difference to their learning.

PE

Y4 and Y5 will continue to have two PE sessions each week (Monday and Thursday). Having PE kit in school all week is the easiest arrangement to ensure it's there ready for lessons and clubs.

If you have any questions or queries relating to this letter or any other issue, feel free to pop in and see any of us.

Many thanks,

Mr Thompson and Miss Tucker