

Year 5 – Information for Parents

Autumn 2016

Welcome back to a busy and exciting start to the new academic year. Below is an overview of the subjects and topics that we will be exploring this term.

English

We will be studying a range of genres in work relating to literacy. This term we focus upon writing stories, poems, letters and reports. Our non-fiction work will focus on our topics of Rivers and The Ancient Egyptians and will include diaries and note-taking. We will also be using the dictionary and thesaurus to increase our vocabulary and make more effective word choices.



Spellings will be brought home each **Monday** with the children being tested the following week. Each **Wednesday** the children will be given 'talk' homework as preparation for Big Write. It is hoped that parents or other family members will discuss with the children the subject mentioned to give them additional ideas for their writing the next day. Guided reading questions will also be sent home each week on your child's specific reading day. Please encourage regular reading and sharing of books from the school library.

Maths

This term the maths work will cover place value and will continue to develop written and mental calculation methods when solving 'real life' problems. We will focus on methods of checking calculations, ensuring that we have reached the correct answer. The children will study fractions and decimals while shape and space work will reinforce and extend their knowledge of properties of shapes. Please encourage your child to learn their times tables as these will be tested weekly. It is now a national expectation that children will be able to recall all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4 so regular practice is essential if your child doesn't know the times tables yet. Maths homework will continue to be set each week on a **Thursday** and we would be grateful if you could support your child in completing this, as it helps consolidate learning. In Year 5, your child will have the opportunity to use the Mathematics ICT resource. They will be able to access this both in school and outside school competing with children around the world in maths activities and challenges.



Topic Work

The theme of 'Rivers' is a geography unit of work that we look at during the first half term. We will be going on a field trip to the New Forest to investigate and observe the Silver Stream. We will be looking at the features of the river from the source to the mouth, where it joins the sea at Lymington, providing the children with first hand experience of a local river. We would appreciate any parents who have been DBS checked coming along with us and joining our adventure!



In the second half term, we will be studying the Ancient Egyptians. We are looking at what we already know about life in ancient Egypt as well as what we can learn about the Egyptians from artefacts that have survived. We will also be looking at their take on the afterlife!

Science

Our science topics for this term will be 'Properties and Changing Materials' and 'Animals, including humans'. Through practical activities we will learn about: solids, liquids and gasses; how a substance changes state; how to separate materials using specific equipment; how animals and humans grow and mature over time; and how animals reproduce, where we will make links to PSHE. The children will develop many scientific thinking skills, including observation, recording data and drawing conclusions.



Computing

In computing this term, the children will be exploring E-safety and how to use search technologies safely. We will be using the Internet to support our studies of other areas of the curriculum, particularly geography and history. They will use an animation program to create a piece of work and logo will be used as they learn how to write more complex procedures. Word, Excel and PowerPoint will be used to enhance our topic work where appropriate.

Art

During art, the children will be developing their skills in water colour painting through our study of the impressionist painter Monet. We will also carry out sketching of real life objects using pencils, charcoal and chalk. We will be looking at examples of these media and linking them to the River and Egyptian topics.



French

Our French lessons will continue to build on the vocabulary learnt in previous years through a variety of activities and games. Study will focus on asking questions and expressing opinions.

Faith and Belief

In the first half of the term, the children will be learning about the concept of water as a symbol and the ritual use of water in Christianity and Islam. We will then consider the concept of 'prophecy' and linking it to the Christmas story.

P.S.H.E. and P4C

Circle time will be used to develop cooperation, raise self-esteem and address any whole class issues. At the beginning of the term we will create our class charter with links to the UNCRC. We will be looking at the topics of 'New beginnings' and 'It's my body'. The children will have opportunities to express their own feelings and opinions. In P4C, the children will be given the opportunity to explore their own ideas on different topics.

Physical Activity

The children will have Dance on a **Wednesday** and we are also able to offer tennis lessons on a **Thursday**. Tennis will be taught by professional coaches at the Totally Tennis facility in Basingstoke's War Memorial Park with our first session on 22nd September. If any parents are available to help escort the children, we would love to hear from them. PA kit should be in school all of the time and must contain appropriate foot wear, black shorts and white t-shirt. It is very important that parents name the kit. On tennis days, please ensure your child has warm clothing and a coat as we will be walking to the centre in all conditions and the hall is unheated. Furthermore, children requiring Epipens or inhalers must bring them along in order to enable them to take part in the activities. We would also like to remind you that, in the interests of safety, earrings must be removed or covered with tape during PA lessons, which they must provide themselves. Hair that is long enough to put in a band MUST be tied back in these lessons.

Homework

We appreciate the support that you give your children at home, especially with topic projects. Visits to libraries, museums and other relevant attractions help to contextualise the work we do in school, inspiring and motivating the children. Could we remind you to check your child's homework diary each evening in order to help them complete and hand in homework on time. Playing maths games, testing on spellings and tables and encouraging them to use Mathematics can support learning in class.

As usual, if you have any questions about the subjects that your child will be learning or any other queries, please do not hesitate to come in and see us - we are available most days after school. However, if you would like to make an appointment, please contact the office.

Kind regards,

Miss Young and Mr. McLeod.

TOPIC WORDS

Science

Soluble insoluble
reversible irreversible
transparent opaque solids
liquids gases states
mixture filter dissolve melt
freeze evaporate condense

Rivers

Source meander
tributary bed
confluence mouth
channel rapids
deposition glacier
estuary

Ancient Egyptians

hieroglyphic Isis Nile
papyrus Horus Osiris
sphinx pyramid scarab
Pharaoh embalm ankh
mummification canopic
jar sarcophagus