

Year 5 Newsletter – Spring 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas.

The following is an overview of what your child will be learning in the first half of the spring term, as well as general timetabling information. **Our big question** for this term is What causes people to look beyond themselves to create change for the greater good? We will link this throughout our curriculum from great changes in history to our Science topic through enquiry and ourselves in PSHE.

In **English**, we will be reading a text set in the Victorian times - 'Street Child.' We will be learning all about what life was like for Victorian children. The children will write in role as a character and create a non-chronological report. We will be focusing on persuasive writing techniques in a letter, as well as writing a newspaper report.

We really need your help encouraging the children with their **reading**. All children have access to Accelerated Reader and My On and we need them to be reading every day and completing a quiz approximately weekly (depending on the size of the book). We have daily **Destination Reader** sessions, which will involve explicitly teaching reading strategies, such as clarifying, inferring, predicting, questioning, summarising and making connections with the wider world.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term is Multiplication, Division and Fractions. It would be beneficial to do extra work on division and fractions at home to help build confidence in this area. Posing simple mental arithmetic questions like '8 divided by 4' and equivalent fractions (4/8 being the same as a half) to your children at home will really help ensure progression to more challenging division work in school. **Children will be tested on their times tables on a weekly basis.**

Our **History** topic will be the Victorians. We will learn about the life of Queen Victoria, the industrial revolution and important inventions during the Victorian era. We will also focus on the life of Victorian children, and the use of medicine to treat diseases.

In **Science**, our topic will be Earth and Space. We will look at the movement of the Earth and the Moon, and how the rotation of the earth explains day and night. We will also explore theories from different scientists, as well as supporting evidence.



In Year 5, in **French** this term, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding of the language around the topic areas we are looking at in class.

In **Music**, the children will be developing their musical vocabulary with reference to texture and dynamics. They will look at how poetry and rap can be used to tell a story and will also be creating their own performance piece.

In **Computing**, we will be doing 'Physical Computing' using Crumble Kits as part of a STEM Day. We will also participate in the HSBC Future Coders programme.

In **D.T.** we will be creating parachutes using recycled materials so please send in any items that might work as a parachute or basket to hold our precious eggs.

In **PSHE**, our topic is dreams and goals. This includes aspirations for future careers, and how the dreams of those from other cultures may differ from our own.

Our “big question” in **Religious Education** this half term is: ‘What do Sikh’s Believe?’ Children will explore what Sikh’s believe about God. Where Sikh’s worship, the significance of the Amrit ceremony to Sikh’s and key items related to Sikhism.

Students will also compete in a Dragon’s Den project with HSBC. It is a community and educational activities project bringing financial world knowledge and awareness to young students, understanding how a business concept works, and developing their entrepreneurial skills. We are still looking for two more adult helpers for these sessions so if you are available to help on Friday mornings from 9-11, please get in touch.

Swimming is to commence from the 2nd week of term. **Palm class will swim this term**, with Cherry Class going in Summer term. This will happen on **Tuesday** mornings. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit (swimsuit, swimming hat, towel) to school on this day in a separate bag.

P.E. will still be on **Wednesday afternoons**. Please ensure your child comes into school wearing the correct kit on Wednesday. Reminder to, if possible, wear blue jumpers in class on all other days and not hoodies.

Homework will be set on a half termly basis. The spellings and times tables are compulsory and will be tested on a weekly basis in class. Children should also read daily. Projects outlined should be completed and brought into school on the last week of each half term.

A reminder, if there is anything that you wish to talk to us about, please do let us know. We are here to help!

Best wishes,
The Year 5 team.

