Year 5 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a great start to the year, and it has been an absolute pleasure to witness so many of our school values being displayed by your children!

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the second half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information.

In **English**, we will be reading a classic, festive text by Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol'. Through reading this book as a whole class, we will be exploring themes of poverty, society, family life, charity and Christmas. The children will be analysing what makes good character descriptions and create their very own for Ebenezer Scrooge. Additionally, the children will be learning how to devise expanded noun phrases to create effect and understand the use of commas.

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. We will also be reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens in these lessons.

Our **Maths** focus at the start of this half-term is on multiplication and division facts. We encourage memorisation of their multiplication facts as **children will be tested on their times tables on a weekly basis.** Children will then build their understanding of fractions by finding and recognising equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, and comparing and ordering fractions that are less than and greater than 1. They also learn to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers, using visual models and reasoning to explain their thinking. This unit helps pupils develop confidence in working with fractions and prepares them for more complex fraction calculations later in Year 5.

Our **Geography** topic will be 'Mapping Europe'. Children will be taught key skills to identify and locate key geographical features of countries in Europe using maps and atlases. The children will be able to identify counties, cities, mountains, rivers, seas and coastlines across Europe.

In **Science**, our topic will investigate "Forces": gravity, air resistance, water resistance, friction, pulleys and levers. The children will be conducting scientific enquiries to answer questions and recognise variables where necessary.

In Year 5, in **French** this term, we will be exploring space and be learning about all the planets.

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In **Music**, the children will be exploring the structure and sounds of three-chord pop music. They will learn to play the bass line, chords and melody, developing their listening, rhythm and performance skills along the way. Working collaboratively, they will practise their individual parts before bringing them together to perform a well-known pop song as a band, building their confidence, musical understanding and teamwork.

In **PSHE**, our topic is 'celebrating differences.' We will be learning about respecting different cultures, understanding the topic of racism and looking at different types of bullying.

In **Computing**, learners will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. Learners will consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems. They will explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. Learners will also take part in a collaborative online project with other class members and develop their skills in working together online.

In **Art,** we will be studying typography. We will look at different fonts, layouts and printed word. We will be creating a visual map using typography skills.

Finally, our big question in **Religious Education** this half term is: 'How do art and music convey Christmas?' The children will be exploring how the beliefs and meaning of Christmas are conveyed through art and music. We will investigate the Christian belief of the **Incarnation** by studying the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Luke and John, identifying the key beliefs each writer wants to communicate. Children will then examine how artists from different cultures represent the Christmas story and consider how culture, time and place influence the way religious beliefs are expressed. They will also explore Christmas carols to evaluate how music communicates the central beliefs of Christmas. By the end of the unit, pupils will understand that while the message of Christmas remains the same, people express and interpret it in different ways through art and music.

P.E. will be on **Thursday** mornings**.** Please ensure your child comes into school wearing the correct kit on.

Please encourage your child to read every day and your child has a reading record, please do share your experiences of reading with them at home. All children also have access to a school library book. For this half term 5W will continue to go to the library on Wednesday and 5B will go on Monday's. Weekly spellings and times tables are compulsory and will be tested on a Friday in class.

A reminder, if there is anything that you wish to talk to us about, please do let us know either on the gate at home time, or via the Year 5 mailbox. We are here to help!

Best wishes,
Year 5 Team

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