

Elizabeth Á Linney – Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first half term of year 5. Mrs Zaheen, Mr Lewis and Mrs Gibbons are looking forward to all the exciting teaching and learning we have planned for this year.

This half term we will be focusing on a Geography based topic of Rainforests. We will be making links across the curriculum and relating all of our learning this half-term to this topic.

Here is a list of our subjects for this half term and beyond.

English - Most of our writing will have cross-curricular links with Geography, History and PSHE. Our English learning journeys will be taught in the 'Talk for Write' style. Talk for Write, developed by Pie Corbett, is a powerful tool for writing because it is based on the principles of how children learn and enables them to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. Over the year, pupils will be reading the following English texts: Vanishing rainforest, Wrinkle in Time, Myths and Legends from around the world, There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom, The Lost Happy Endings

It is essential that your child reads every day and that this is recorded in their Reading Journals. Reading Journals will be checked every fortnight by the class teacher. It is a requirement that Reading Journals are signed by an adult at least once a week.

Spelling - In line with the new national curriculum, the children will be covering the spelling lists for years 5 and will be applying these in their writing. In year 5, we move away from Guided Reading and introduce DERIC reading skills (Decoding words, Explaining new vocabulary, Retrieving information, Interpreting information and Choice). Here, a pupil is given a word in context and must analyse its meaning and then apply it in writing.

Maths this half term we will be focused around number. This includes: Place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. At the beginning of each week, the pupils will have a practical activity to introduce them to the new topic. Children will also be tested on their mental arithmetic and times tables during this half-term. You can help your child by practising all the times tables up to 12 with them regularly. There are many free times tables apps available on I-pads that pupils can access to help them. Further, we are extremely fortunate to have the support of a Maths specialist, Mr Blackburn, in our Maths lessons. Mr Blackburn will be supporting small groups every day. The groups will alternate so that every child has had focussed Maths support from Mr Blackburn.

Geography topics include South America, Ancient Greece and the Olympics,

Science topics include Forces, Earth and Space, Properties and changes of materials, Living things and their habitats, Puberty, Investigation skills

Please note that the **Enterprise project** this year will be in the summer and Year 5 will also carry out a Romeo and Juliet performance.

Art will include drawing, painting, sculpture, printing and Art history as well as photography.

In addition, we will be teaching **PE, RE, Computing** with **e-safety** as its focus, **Spanish** and **Drama**. We will also be introducing **Career Researching skills** and Philosophy for Children (**P4C**), to enable our pupils to consider life beyond school and begin to map out a future for themselves.

Maths and English Homework will be set on a Friday to be handed in on Wednesday morning. MyMaths homework will be set online and pupils will be given their passwords. Please ensure that you record these details at home, just in case pupils lose these. Homework club will be provided to those pupils where it has not been completed as a one-off. Where there is persistent failure to complete homework, the pupil will be asked to complete his/her homework during their breaks. We would prefer not to resort to the latter and urge parents to sit with their child over the weekend and ensure that the homework is completed during this time. This takes away last-minute anxiety from the pupil, to complete homework on time.

PE lessons will be on Monday mornings. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit in school for both indoor and outdoor classes. PE kits are to remain in school and only taken home at the end of half-term.

The children will be rewarded for good attendance. 100% attendance is crucial for children to continue to make good progress this year. If your child is absent please ensure that you ring the school by 9.30 am to inform of the reason for absence. A note must also be written explaining your child's absence on their return to school.

All children are expected to come to school in full uniform as this is reflective of their learning and their attitude towards school. If a child has an item of uniform missing then they will receive a warning. If that item continues to be missing then the child will miss their playtime. Consistent failure to attend school without the correct uniform will result in referral to a member of the SLT.

We are happy to see you if you have any concerns, questions or problems.

Mrs Zaheen, Mr Lewis and Mrs Gibbons

