

We are a global community, learning and growing together.



Monday 16th April 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I do hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday; that you have all had opportunities to enjoy the outdoors over the last two weeks whether that be away or locally; and that you all managed to find at least a tiny bit of sunshine wherever you have been!

Our lessons in Term 3a:

Over the course of this term, our topic will be '*Into the Wild*'. Science and Geography will lead our topic focus as we base much of our learning around Attenborough's *Planet Earth* series. Our particular focus will be on animals, their lifecycles and their habitats. In English this term, as well as working on our reading comprehension skills and continuing to focus on the technical side of spelling, punctuation and grammar, we will be linking our non-fiction work to our topic. We will be exploring biography, journalistic, persuasive and non-chronological report writing and using our topic sessions to create information texts on an area of personal interest within the topic.

In Maths, we will be focusing on improving and perfecting our arithmetic skills and applying these to help us solve problems. Our focus for RE is Christianity where we will be looking at where people find inspiration and in PE we will be working on athletics and running (with a focus on getting us as ready as possible for Y5 victory in Run Jericho!). In our Art and Design sessions this term, we will be making models of animals and plants to create a jungle-themed learning environment and also looking at the work of Rousseau and creating mixed-media animal-themed pictures in his style.

Each week, we will also have a Philosophy for Children (P4C) session. This links to all areas of the curriculum and gives us a chance to think about big questions and issues that make us think hard about things. This term, we will continue to develop our ability to generate and respond to philosophical questions from a given stimulus.

PE:

We are still having some issues with children not having a change of clothes for PE sessions. All children are expected to have a change of clothes (and shoes!) for PE lessons on **Thursdays** and **Fridays**. This is particularly important in the upper key stage, not only for reasons of personal hygiene but also because we do try to take the children outside for PE as much as possible – rain does not always mean we head inside! Your child may be very soggy if they do not have a change of clothes. As the temperature (hopefully) increases in the summer months, a change of clothes becomes very important – as does a regularly-washed PE kit.

Ukulele:

'Hughkulele' will continue to come in on **Wednesday afternoons**, so please make sure that if your child brings their ukulele home, they remember to bring it in to school each **Wednesday**.

Homework:

Spellings

This term, we will continue to use homework to learn and practise our spellings. They will be set on a Monday and tested the following Monday as usual.

Maths

This term, I will be setting a 'Weekly Maths Workout'. Each week, your child will receive 6-8 questions linked to different aspects of the Y5 curriculum to complete for homework. Your child should feel free to use any resources they need to help them complete the task. For example, if there is a question on simplifying fractions and they need a reminder of how to do this, they can use online resources, books or human resources (!) to help them. Children should complete their work in their green homework books and hand them in on Mondays. We will mark them together on a Monday in class.



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SPAG:

This term, I will set a piece of homework focusing on Grammar. This will follow the same format as the Maths questions. There may also be some work linked to revising and remembering important terminology.

It is really important that, together, we begin to encourage the children in Years 5 and 6 to increase their independence with regard to being ready and prepared for school in all its forms. This includes taking responsibility for ensuring that they have the homework that has been set so that it can be completed and handed in on time, that they ensure letters make it home and make it out of their bag and that any permission forms are returned before the deadline. On that note, please do look out for letters linked to school events and trips (and please be aware that as a safety net, I always put a copy in the window of the classroom!)

Finally, please remember that my door is always open. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns or if you or your child have something exciting or important to share.

Many thanks for all that you do to support your child and the school. It is always hugely appreciated.

Yours sincerely.

Helen Manley
Class Teacher