

Dear parents,

First and foremost, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! As you all will agree, the children have a very exciting 2024 ahead and I am very much looking forward to supporting them on their journey.

Within our English sessions this half term, we will be using the book 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde as inspiration to write a narrative retelling the story in 3<sup>rd</sup> person. The children will continue to recap on key skills from Year 5 and will choose language carefully to influence the reader's opinion of a character by using formal speech and passive verbs. After half term, our focus will move towards writing a journalistic report focusing on Charles Darwin's discoveries. We will be using the text 'Island' by Jason Chin to develop our cohesive skills in organising information and using colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses.

During Maths sessions this half term, children we will be continuing their learning of fractions. They will have opportunities to recap what they have previously learnt in autumn and further their knowledge through multiplying and dividing. We will then be moving on to converting units of measure, building on from prior knowledge and developing understanding of imperial and metric measures. Children will then turn their attention to algebra and ratio. After the half term, we will be recapping the learning of decimals and percentages and their link to fractions. Following this, we will work through area and perimeter questions and develop our learning of statistics where children will be introduced to pie charts.

Our History sessions this half term is 'The Maya Civilisation'. In this unit, the children will explore the world of the Maya, and debate whether they should continue to be remembered today as a significant culture. The children will begin by learning about the lives of the Maya today, before focusing on ancient Maya architectural achievements, their religion and surviving writings. They will also study the possible reasons why the Maya city states declined after 900 AD, looking at conspiracy theories and considering whether everything they read online is reliable. After half-term, our Geography topic will be, 'Our World, Our Future'. In this unit, the children will consider the past, present and future of their local area. This unit will help them see change as a positive and to feel optimistic about the changes that lie ahead.

'Animals Including Humans' is our Science topic in Spring Term where we will be recapping the children's learning about how animals survive and stay healthy. We will develop an understanding of the importance of diet, exercise and lifestyle in the way that bodies function. We will be learning about the main parts of the circulatory system and the job of the heart to learn about what blood is comprised of and how it is transported around the body.

Physical Education sessions will continue to take place on a **Monday** afternoon with Mrs Moore. The children will be developing their skills in gymnastics and football. When we return for Spring Two, basketball and health related exercise sessions will be taught. They will need their outdoor P.E. kits to participate in the learning. It is a good idea for children to have their PE kits with them throughout the week in the event of an individual/ one- off lesson.

French will be taught fortnightly by Mrs Potts on Thursdays with French language and vocabulary being reinforced regularly throughout the week when possible.



In our Music sessions this half term, we will be exploring pulse work and learn and compare texture in music. In Spring Two, we will be focusing on the song *You to me are everything* by The Real Thing - a British soul group formed in the 1970s. During this unit, pupils will explore the key musical features of this track and develop an understanding of the term 'cover version'.

In Art, we will be exploring shadow puppets. Traditional and contemporary artists and craftspeople will be of focus to lead towards using intricate cutouts to create a final piece. After half term, further explorations of designers and craftspeople will be introduced. The children will focus on how artists can bring their personality into their creations of chair designs over time. After understanding how furniture can reflect or define the age in which it was made, the children will go on to make their own model chair.

In Computing this half term, we will be furthering our learning of spreadsheets to organise data by creating charts and evaluate findings. After half-term, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of using a computer to produce 3D models. They will initially familiarise themselves with working in a 3D space: moving, resizing, and duplicating objects.

Following a parent survey, the school has made some minor changes to when children will receive homework. For Year Six, English and Maths homework will be set together on a Friday with both tasks being due for return the following Wednesday. When spellings are set, they will be given out on a Wednesday and the children will have a week to become accustomed to the words before being assessed the following Wednesday. Work set and homework diaries can of course be returned earlier if tasks have been completed before the due date. If you feel your child is struggling or experiencing difficulties with a particular homework, please comment in the homework diary and upon return I will be able to address any difficulties.

As mentioned previously, regular reading continues to remain a vital skill for developing your child's learning in all areas of the curriculum. Children are expected to read regularly and to comment in their reading record twice a week. Although many will now approach reading with confidence and enthusiasm, it is important that you ask your child lots of questions about their reading to progress comprehension skills, vocabulary knowledge and focus. I would also welcome comments from you after listening to your child read as it will provide me with a greater insight into how they are getting on at home with their reading. Please do support the development of your child's reading by reading to and with your children regularly.

Later this term, a SATs information meeting will be conducted for parents. I will provide further details regarding this nearer the time.

If you have any questions, queries or matters regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am usually available before school and at the end of the day.

Mr Newman

Year 6 Class Teacher

