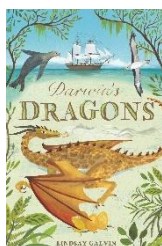




Welcome back for another very busy half term. In a few weeks, we will have Science Week, which this year incorporates World Book Day, followed by Year 5 bikeability and the term ends with our Key Stage 2 outdoor education day at Borwick Hall. We also begin to prepare the Year 6 children for their SATS, which are coming in May!

This half term, we will be focusing on Science and exploring the natural world. We will follow the journey of Charles Darwin and the scientific discoveries he made about evolution and inheritance on his amazing journey on the HMS Beagle. We will ask questions about evolution. What is it? Why do scientists believe it takes place and what is the evidence in the world around us? We will also be looking closely at the life cycles of different animals and making comparisons to those of humans. How do life cycles begin and what are the phases of these changes? **Please ensure your child is learning their Knowledge Organiser facts as there will be a regular weekly quiz.**



In English, we will begin our half term exploring the story 'Darwin's Dragons, a novel by Lindsay Galvin that explores the real-life journey of Charles Darwin and his assistant Syms Covington as they explore the Galapagos Islands. What might have happened on these so-called 'Enchanted Isles' and how does it inform the real world of today? The children will explore the language and develop their understanding of word classes and the perfect form of verbs. Our reading workshops will continue to focus on key reading skills, using the Point, Evidence and Explanation approach to explore reading and understanding how fictional stories are effectively sequenced. Ask the children about their 'Vocabulary Ninja' words of the day to encourage them to explain their understanding. Please allow time to discuss what children are reading at home and allow the children to explain their understanding of what they have been reading.



We will continue to regularly send reading books home and aim to change these as regularly as possible. Please ensure that these home readers are in school every day as reading takes place regularly in school, either with myself and Mrs Stocks .

Home learning will continue to go home every Thursday so please ensure that home learning is back in school each Tuesday to allow us time to check and give out the new home learning. Year 6 Home Learning will be very different as we approach the SATs. The Year 6 children will be given a revision pack which they must have in school every and will be given regular revision tasks to prepare them for May. Please ask any questions at Parents Evening.

In Maths we will continue to focus on basic skills, place value and our understanding of the four operations. In this half term, we will also be exploring multiplying fractions, mean, median and mode and the division and multiplication of larger numbers. Every day we will be exploring mental and written strategies and exploring a range of methods to solve addition and subtraction problems.

In our R.E. lessons, the children will be exploring the meaning of forgiveness. What does forgiveness mean? How can it affect a person's life? Are the terms condoning, forgetting and excusing different to forgiving?

P.E. will take place on Monday and Tuesday. We will continue to devise our own dance sequences based around the theme of heroes on Mondays and ,weather permitting, will be getting outside for invasion games sessions on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure PE kits are in school each Monday as they will be sent home after Tuesday's sessions to be cleaned for the next week. Please do not send your child in earrings on P.E. days as, even if they can be removed, there is always the worry that things will be lost!

Do not hesitate to contact me when needed.

Mr McGurk