

## **Newsletter Autumn Term 2020**

### **Class 5B and 5G**

Welcome back to a new school year! We are so glad to see all of the children back in school after what seems like such a long time away. All of the Year 5 team are looking forward to working together with you to provide the children with both a happy and a productive year.

We are taking extra precautions in school as a result of the COVID 19 situation. This includes extra handwashing throughout the day. You may like to speak to your child about how to wash their hands carefully and thoroughly. Please send in a labelled water bottle for your child on a daily basis if you have not done so already. Each year group is using a different area of the playground or the field for their playtime to help maintain year group bubbles, and there are also allocated areas in the playground for you to wait safely when dropping off and collecting your child in order to maintain social distancing.

We will be starting our lessons this term with a catch-up curriculum, recapping and revisiting the Year 4 English and Maths curriculum in order to support the children's return to school. We will particularly be focusing on key skills and any subject areas that either were not covered last year or were covered largely through Google Classroom. The work we will be doing will allow children to build up their confidence and help them to access the Year 5 curriculum as well as stretching and challenging those who are able. If you do have any worries or concerns, do feel free to contact us.

In our English lessons this term, we will be basing our work around two key novels: *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Our key objectives for this first half-term will be building confidence with sentence punctuation; understanding and using a wide and varied vocabulary; using apostrophes for both missing letters and to show possession; punctuating direct speech accurately; inferring information from a text; using paragraphs in our writing and reading aloud with fluency and expression. We will be looking at a range of writing styles including story writing, recounts, diary writing and poetry. Weekly spellings will be given to the children on Mondays and they will be tested the following Friday. The weekly spellings will be available through the parent information page of the school website.

In our Maths lessons, we will begin by going over key elements of the Year 4 Maths curriculum, including place value, geometry, fractions and the four main operations (+ - x ÷). We will build confidence in these before moving on to using these to solve increasingly complex word problems. We will be continuing with 'Times Tables Rockstars' to improve our recall of multiplication and division facts. There will also be a regular arithmetic sessions.

We will be focusing on three main topics this term. We will begin by studying the Ancient Greeks, looking at a range of areas such as their daily lives, key historical events and Greek warfare. We will also be having a Greek workshop in school to help build the children's interest and understanding. After that, we will be studying weather. This unit will have a Geography focus, and will include case studies looking at extreme weather, what causes this and how we try to prepare for it. Our final topic of this term will be Science. We will be studying materials, both analysing the properties of a range of materials and looking at how they change state. This unit will include a range of practical experiments.

We will be having weekly PSHCE lessons, looking first at helping the children to adjust to the return to school and discussing their feelings about Covid-19 and lockdown, sharing any worries they may have and addressing how they can deal with these. We will also be looking at our Jigsaw unit for this half-term: *Being Me in My World*. In the second half of this term,

we will be completing the Sex and Relationships Education unit that the children were meant to have completed in Year 4, following the 'Changing Me' unit from Jigsaw.

In RE, the children will be studying two world religions, Christianity and Judaism, and also thinking about key social and moral questions. They will also be looking at being ourselves and celebrating difference. In Computing, we will be beginning by looking at a range of basic skills, developing confidence and expertise with a range of common software. Our Art lessons will look at pottery, leading to us making a Greek plate. There will be some changes to our usual Music curriculum due to restrictions on singing in class, but we will be exploring the genre of rock this half-term: its history and some of contemporary performers. In the second half-term, we will be looking at choral music, focusing on traditional Christmas carols. In each lesson, we will also be listening to and appraising pieces of classical music by a wide range of composers from different time periods. In our French lessons later this term, our topics will be 'The Olympics' and then 'Weather' where we will learn and use simple vocabulary and understand spoken French sentences.

PE will focus on tennis and football, as well as sessions looking at team-work and cooperation this first half-term. It is essential that the children have their labelled PE kit in school at all times – dark shorts (navy or black), white t-shirt and trainers. Tracksuits may be required when the weather is cold. Children with long hair need to ensure that their hair is tied back at all times. PE will be on a Thursday morning for both classes, as well as one other session a week this half-term. For 5B, this will usually be on a Tuesday and for 5G this will usually be on a Friday.

As already mentioned, we will be having a workshop this half-term linked to our Ancient Greek topic and another in the first half Spring term based on our Vikings topic. These will include a cost of around £3 per workshop. In the Summer term, we hope to visit Clacton linked with our topic of coasts, which in the past has cost around £15.00.

Each half-term, the children will be given a project linked to our topic to complete and share with the rest of the class. In Year 5, the children will also be expected to complete a range of other activities during the week. We expect them to be reading their school reading book every day; to practise on Times Tables Rockstars at least three times a week and to learn their spellings ready for the weekly test. They will also be completing online activities through [spag.com](http://spag.com) practising grammar rules - we will let the children know when these have been issued and the date by which they are to be submitted. They will also be given Maths tasks to complete linked with our arithmetic work. Your help and support with any work at home will be greatly appreciated.

May we remind you of the correct equipment that your child must have at school at all times. It is essential that your child has his or her own pencil case which must contain a pencil, a rubber and a pencil sharpener. When children have earned their Year 5 pen licence they can then start using a black ink or gel pen. Pens can be purchased from the school office. Please make sure that your child's equipment is sensible and will not distract them or others from their work! Please also ensure that your child has the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled.

Thank you in advance for all of your support this year and for the hard work you and the children did whilst away from school. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Miss J. Bloomfield & Mr I. Gonzalez.