

Autumn Newsletter

Year 5



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and the new term. I hope you are all safe and well and have had a lovely, rested summer and are feeling refreshed! We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about a few things and to tell you about what has been planned for your child this autumn term.

Our main topic this term will centre around the book "Kensuke's Kingdom" by Michael Morpurgo. In English, we will be using this inspiring story to produce various genres of writing. In December, we will watch The Snowman and add descriptive text to parts of the film. Throughout the term, we will be concentrating on improving our standards of presentation, spelling and how to use a range of punctuation accurately including full-stops, commas, question marks, exclamation marks, brackets, dashes and semi-colons.

In our humanities lessons, we will look at climate zones around the world; identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Equator, the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night); identify the continents and oceans of the world plus label the layers of the Earth, understand what a volcano is and identify the 'Ring of Fire'.

In our reading sessions, the children will be encouraged to read a wide range of texts to continue improving their fluency and comprehension. We would be grateful if you would continue reading with your child for enjoyment and to ensure they are reading with understanding and fluency.

In maths, mental recall, in particular times tables, is vitally important if children are going to make good progress. Using the internet, games or board games can help reinforce the maths needed for Year 5 in a fun and enjoyable way. Hopefully, your child is now familiar with Times Table Rockstars and will have their own username and password for the site.

Other super websites are 'Hit the Button', Prodigy' and 'My Maths'. This term, we will be learning about the place-value of digits up to 1,000,000; column addition and subtraction; reading and interpreting timetables and two-way tables; multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and finding the area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes. These skills will be extended and applied in forms of reasoning and problem solving.

Our regular PE days for this term will be **Monday** and **Friday**. Due to Covid19, pupils are asked to **come to school in their PE kit** on the appropriate days. Also, all PE sessions will take place outside. If there is heavy rain, we will be unable to partake in a practical session. However, if there is light rain, we shall endeavour to have an outdoor session so a light raincoat would be beneficial. Pupils can come to school in their tracksuits for PE if it becomes too cold. I would be grateful if you could make sure that long hair is tied back and that earrings are removed or covered with micro-pore tape or similar on PE days.

As you are aware, we have had to stagger the start and end times of the day for each class. Year 5 will start promptly at 9:20 am and finish at 3:40 pm. If your child has any siblings that start at an earlier time, you may drop them off at the earlier time. They can sit quietly in class and work through some early morning activities. Registers will be taken at 9:20 am.

We encourage children to bring in **labelled** water bottles to access during the day (no glass or screw lid bottles please).

Again, due to extra safety measures in school at this time, pupils will not be able to buy a snack at break time. Therefore, your child is able to bring in a healthy snack for their break.

Maths homework will usually be set on MyMaths on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Guided reading homework which will be given on a specific day for your child will be expected to be returned the following week on that day. Spellings will be given out on Fridays, a week before the spelling test.

Finally, should you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate in contacting either myself or Mrs Harris through our contact email address (contact@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk). We look forward to a fabulous year working with you and your child.

Yours faithfully

Miss McArdle and Mrs Harris

