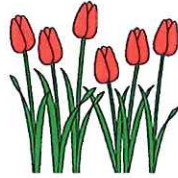


Spring Newsletter

Year 5



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school and the new term. I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year. I 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 for this term.

Our main topic this term is entitled "Kensuke's Kingdom". As always, we will be working in a cross-curricular style, linking subjects together as much as possible. During this topic, we will look at climate zones around the world; identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Equator, the Northern Hemisphere 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 of the world plus label the layers of the Earth, understand what a volcano is and identify the 'Ring of Fire'.

In Literacy, we will use the text - Kensuke's Kingdom - to follow Michael's route around the world and base our work on his experiences. We will be writing descriptively about events that occur on his journey, a newspaper article, a persuasive advert, a balanced argument, a non-chronological report plus we will explore Haikus, a short, Japanese form of poetry.

Throughout the term we will be concentrating on improving our standards of presentation, spelling and the use of language. The children will also be encouraged to read a wide range of texts to continue improving their fluency, understanding and deduction skills. I 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, times tables are vitally important if the children are going to make good progress. Using internet games or board games can help reinforce them in a fun and enjoyable way. Your child should be learning their times tables regularly and should now be confident with their 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 times tables plus their inverse. We will be continuing to build on our number work, especially with the four rules of number: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and develop strategies when applying these to solving word problems.

Our theme in science this term is properties and changes of materials. We will compare and group materials on the basis of their properties; look at materials that dissolve; use our knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated plus understand which reactions are reversible and which are not.

Please make sure your child has their named PE kit in school for Wednesday. Their kit should be named and any child wearing earrings should remove them, or cover them with tape (provided by you) for safety reasons. Swimming will commence this term for Year 5 and sessions will be held on Thursdays.

My Maths homework is set online on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Guided Reading homework is given on your child's guided reading day and to be completed for the following week. Spelling homework is given out on this day also. Some children are still unsure as to how to tell the time. It would be great if they could practise this at home too! (am/pm plus 24hour clock times required.)

As you can see, it is going to be another extremely busy term!

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any concerns. Alternatively, you can communicate through our school planner.

Yours faithfully

Miss McArdle