

Summer Newsletter - Year 5

Dear parents / carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed your Easter holidays. Children have returned to school ready to learn, and have made a good start to this term. Thank you for attending the pupil progress meetings - I was pleased to report on some good progress this year.

In **literacy** this term, we will be using our topic work as the stimulus for our writing. We will be creating diary entries and newspaper reports around the period in history, as well as looking at instruction writing. We will also be continuing to develop our creative writing through stories. In **maths**, we will be looking at some of the concepts visited throughout the year in more detail in order to further understand and reinforce. This includes division, calculations involving fractions and percentages, as well as covering new topics including imperial and metric conversions. We will continue working on word problems, using all four operations, including those which require multiple steps before reaching an answer. To help your child, you could ask them to look at how these concepts occur in real life, for example sharing things at home (division), calculating quarters, halves, eighths of amounts and finding their equivalent percentages. Using metric and imperial measurements when cooking will help children to develop the idea of equivalent amounts. Finally, mentally adding or subtracting totals on a shopping list, or finding how much change is due from different values of money will offer a good context for problems solving.

Our **topic** over the next two terms is the Tudors, where we will be looking at the reign of the Tudor Royal Family, the life of rich and poor people, and also some of the important voyages that were made in this period. We will be focussing on how we can use different sources of information to find out about these ideas, and this will culminate in our trip to explore some local Tudor history. For **science** we will be looking at the Earth, Sun and Moon, where we shall be exploring our solar system and the movement of the bodies within it. We will also have a visit from the excellent Astronomy Roadshow (not Brian Cox unfortunately), where the children get to experience a mobile planetarium. More information on these trips will follow later in the term. **PE** will be on a Monday afternoon (dance / gymnastics) and a Wednesday afternoon (games). Children require a PE kit in school (including plimsolls), at all times.

Spellings will continue to be set on a Monday to be tested the following Tuesday. They will be based on a particular spelling pattern being learned in school each week, as well as picking up on common errors found within writing. Spellings will be displayed in class, and children will be expected to make a note of these each week. The meaning of the words should also be learnt, as tests will involve the use of the word in a sentence. **Homework** will usually be set on a Tuesday and should be handed in the following Tuesday, where we shall spend time going over it in class. If your child has difficulty completing the homework or has required more than the usual help from you, please write a brief comment on the work and I will go over it with them. Failure to hand in homework will result in a loss of break time to allow the work to be completed. **Times tables** will also continue to be tested on a weekly basis.

Children will also be completing some end of year tests. These will take place in the hall, providing the children with some good practice for their tests next year. These results will be shared with you at the end of the year. I hope that children learn a lot from the process of sitting these tests in formal conditions, however I do not want the children to worry or panic - the results themselves only form part of my assessment on their progress for the year. The tests will take place after the half term break.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me after school, or make an appointment at the office if you wish to discuss anything.

Mr. L Pollock