

**English**

This term our English lessons will be focused around the beautifully illustrated, non-fiction book 'Shackleton's Journey' which is a unique visual re-telling of Ernest Shackleton's landmark expedition crossing the Antarctic from one pole to the other. We then study 'The Piano' by Aiden Gibbons, a silent animation that features an old man playing a piano while remembering his past memories and sad events. Reading is a high priority in Year 5 and we expect all children to read at home every night. Children must record an aspect of their reading in their journals and parents/carers should sign these each night. All classes in Year 5 attend the school library once a fortnight and children are encouraged to visit the library after school if they need to change their book. Daily reading is proven to help your child make significant progress in both reading and writing.

**Maths**

Our learning in maths this term will be on the development and understanding of division, fractions, decimals and percentages. The children will be learning how to use the formal written method of division and represent answers as fractions, decimals and percentages. When learning about fractions, children will find equivalent, add, subtract and multiply fractions as well as making continual links between all three areas in the unit. In Year 5, we have a strong focus on number fluency, reasoning and problem solving throughout each of our maths topics. Children will be completing an arithmetic test on Monday each week where they will be able to take their test home and re-visit questions. Please also continue practising times tables with your child in preparation for our times tables challenge.

**Science**

This term we will be looking at the topics 'Let's Get Moving' and 'Life Cycles'. During these topics, children will have the opportunity to plan and conduct a variety of experiments as well as developing their skills in the following scientific areas: identifying and classifying, observation, pattern seeking, fair testing and research. Our 'Life Cycles' topic will explore the life cycles of different plants and animals. We will be investigating how seeds germinate and what can effect this happening.

**Humanities**

We will start this term by looking at Geography skills. The children will have the opportunity to become familiar with different maps, use scales on OS maps, grid references and draw detailed maps using a range of OS symbols. In the second half of the term our topic of 'coasts' will see children researching and creatively exploring coastal erosion as well as finding out about how communities are trying to stop coastal erosion. We will spend some time looking at a variety of animals which inhabit the shores of Britain. Our learning of coasts will be enforced by our trip to the Isle of Wight.

**PE**

This term, Year 5 will be completing a block of either football or netball (depending on what they did last term) in their games lessons which focuses on invasion game skills such as passing, retrieving, moving, attack and defence. They will gain experience playing small sided games using the skills they have learnt. In indoor PE, children will study the different components of fitness and have the chance to complete a range of fitness tests that complement these components.

Please ensure that your child has *full PE kit in school every day*. This includes black shorts or jogging bottoms, their house colour T-shirt and trainers. The day of individual class based P.E in Year 5 will vary depending on your child's class. All games lessons will take place on a Monday afternoon.

**Homework**

Reading forms part of your child's homework every night. We expect Year 5 children to read for at least fifteen minutes every night independently or to an adult. Your child will bring home their white reading journal each day. Please listen to them read and discuss their reading book with them. Children in Year 5 are required to comment in their reading journal with a comment about one of the following: characters, plot, setting, descriptions/vocabulary, likes or dislikes.

Maths and English homework will be set on a Thursday to be returned the following Monday.

Spelling homework will be set on a Monday to be returned and tested on a Friday.

Homework can be done independently by the children although any advice you can offer always aids progress.

Homework Club in school will run in Miss Rowlands' classroom every Thursday from 1.05pm to 1.25pm.

#### Other important dates

Science Week: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January

Mosque Visit: Date to be confirmed

Museum Exhibition (school based): Date to be confirmed

Parents Evenings: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 5pm - 7pm

Isle of Wight - Provisional dates: Trip 1: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Trip 2: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Isle of Wight School Journey- As you are aware year 5 children are invited to join the school journey to the Isle of Wight this year. It is a fantastic opportunity for your child to develop their independence and confidence as well as create life long experiences and memories. There are still places available for this trip so please either see Miss Rowlands or Mrs Webb in the school office if you are interested in your child attending.

#### How to Contact Us

We are always happy to see you and discuss any queries or concerns you may have but please be aware that we need to go in with our class as soon as the bell has rung in the morning. If you need to make an appointment at any time, please arrange a time with your class teacher.

#### Kind Regards

Miss Rowlands - Mink Class - Head of Year Five

Miss Wood - Turtle Dove Class

Mr Brewer - Vulture Class