

Year 5 Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! This letter is just to outline what your child will be covering this term in Year 5, to explain some of the routines and expectations for homework and to inform you of any visits we have planned for this term.

Literacy Homework

A writing homework book will be provided for each child. There will usually be a weekly spelling homework, to practise and learn spellings for a weekly test. The spelling will reflect either a rule learnt in class, personal spelling mistakes or topic words. Any other written homework will be expected to be completed within this book. We would like the children to read every day at home for between 10 and 20 minutes and record their reading weekly in the back of their literacy homework book.

Maths homework

Maths homework will normally be set weekly on a Friday and will usually be connected to the work that has been covered during the week, giving the children an opportunity to consolidate their understanding.

Please ensure that your child completes the work by Tuesday and do give assistance where necessary.

Topic and Science Homework

Over the course of the year, we will be giving the children a series of homeworks that provide them with an opportunity to look at something connected with either our science or topic work. Most of these homeworks will need to be completed within two weeks and will take the form of a mini project.

The purpose of these projects is to enable the children to use their own learning and creative style to come up with a solution to the question. A mixture of writing and artwork is encouraged; some children make 3D models to illustrate their understanding, others create PowerPoint presentations or even movies. Because we want to encourage each child to tackle the project in the way that best suits them, we try not to be too prescriptive and each project allows a considerable element of choice. We will explain all of this to the children and should you want further clarification please come and talk to one of us.

Finally, it should be said that this project work is not competitive. We expect each child to see the projects as a way of demonstrating the best that they can do and we hope that their own personal standards will improve during the year. The work will be assessed on our understanding of the effort that each individual child has put into it. We are however very grateful if parents assist by providing resources or giving technical or editorial advice.

School Trips

Throughout the year we anticipate the following excursions to further enrich the curriculum:

Autumn Term: **Fitzwilliam Museum (free)**
 Ice Skating on Parker's Piece (approx. £8.00)

Spring Term: **Buddhist Centre (approx. £2.50)**

Summer Term: **Kentwell Hall (approx £20.00)**
 Church Visit (free)

We have estimated the costings of these visits based on the prices last year.

Occasionally unexpected opportunities arise which benefit the children's learning, we will always inform you in advance and attempt to keep costs to a minimum.

Subject Area	
Literacy	Will include units on P.S.C.H.E. issues dealing with emotions and relationships , Greek myths and non-fiction texts in relation to the Greek topic, poetry and drama. Regular attention will be given to handwriting.
Mathematics	The following concepts will be covered: place value, all four rules of number, fractions, data, shape, measure and money.
Science	The following areas will be covered: Gases Around Us and Changing State.
RE	Jesus' life and teachings; The Bible and what it means to Christians.
Topic	A history topic covering the Ancient Greeks, their place in history and the influence of their legacy, today. We will visit the Fitzwilliam Museum.
Art	A study of Ancient Greek sculpture, pottery and the paintings that cover them. We will sketch our own mythical monsters and create outdoor sculptures of them.
DT	We shall be making papier mache masks of mythical beasts. We hope to explore Greek cuisine.
PE and Games	Both classes will be involved in hockey and basketball during the term. Gym will focus on partner work. Dance will be based on the theme of Friendship.
Music	This is based on units from the "Lively Music 9 - 11" scheme involving listening, appraising and exploring voices. We shall look at the music of the Ancient Greeks.
French	Children will be introduced to basic conversational French, such as: ~ greetings, number and personal details, mainly through songs and games. Community Languages will also be studied, looking at the wide variety of languages and cultures of the pupils throughout Year 5.
ICT	Over the year, as well as individual ICT tasks relating to other subject areas, we will cover: word-processing skills, research and communicating with others. This term we will start using the Smart Learning software, which allows the children to work independently, practising these skills.

If any of you who would like to come into school on a regular basis to help with our activities, you would be very welcome. In particular we would welcome volunteers who could lead a small group of children each week in a food preparation activity linked to our topic. We would be delighted to welcome any helpers who can contribute their individual skills or expertise relevant to our curriculum.

We look forward to meeting you at some point in the term and hope that this information will prove helpful. *Do drop in and ask for any further details you may require.*

Yours sincerely,

Karen Watson and Gareth Williams.