

# Year 5 and 6 Autumn Term Newsletter 2023

## Welcome back to a new school year!

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a lovely summer. It has been lovely to meet some parents already, but do come and say hello if you haven't yet had chance. This class has already impressed me this year with their attentiveness, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. In this newsletter you will see an outline of what we will be covering this term as well as some important information on homework and routines.

**Maths** We are continuing to use White Rose for maths. We will begin with place value and then move onto the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We will be working hard to fill any gaps from previous years.

As always, times tables will be a big focus and we will be continually practising and assessing these using written tests, games, activities and Times Tables Rockstars. Please encourage your child to use TTRS at home as this has proven to be a great resource.

**English** Last year, we enjoyed using the Jane Considine writing scheme and found that our pupils wrote some excellent independent pieces. Using this scheme again, we will be beginning with narrative unit based around the book 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. We will also be focusing on comprehension skills. Our reading for pleasure book is 'Who let the Gods out?'

**Reading** All of the children should have brought home a reading book this week which I have checked is an appropriate level. They are also welcome to read their own books as long as they are the correct level. Please continue to read with your child at home as reading every day is beneficial to all subjects. I have told the children that from next week I will be keeping a record of how much they are reading at home. As part of their homework, they should be reading at least 3 times a week and an adult at home should sign their reading record. Reading will earn them a house point and a point for their reading team! Children can log on to Read Theory to complete quizzes too. We are trialling Read Theory as a basis for identifying the children's Lexile Level and helping teachers to identify appropriate books. The children can complete comprehension quizzes which alters their Lexile Level accordingly as well as developing comprehension skills.

**Spelling** Our scheme doesn't rely on weekly spelling tests but encourages regular reviews and revisiting with "proven methods to increase retention". We have found that often children learn spellings for a test but don't apply these in their writing. We will be having an increased focus on transferring learnt spellings to writing. While using this scheme, we will not be sending spellings home to learn and won't have weekly Spelling Shed homework. We are still buying into Spelling Shed which we will use in school and you are welcome to use with your child at home.

**Science** This term, the children will begin by learning about States of Matter and Electricity.

**History** This term, the children are learning about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

**Geography** This term focuses on Somewhere to Settle and Extreme Earth.

**DT** To start the term off, the children will be doing an Electrical Systems unit.

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**Music** The children will start with a 'Writing Music Down' topic followed by singing practise for the Christmas play.

**French** Madame Cook will be returning this year to continue and build on the French skills from previous years.

**Computing** Year 5 and 6 are starting with a programming unit. We will also be developing general ICT skills through other subjects.

**PE** PE will be on a Monday and a Friday. This term the children will cover netball, football and dodgeball. In the second half of term, swimming will restart for year 5; you will receive a letter about this closer to the time. When the rest of KS2 are swimming, year 6 will stay with me which will be a vital time for some focused maths and English work as well as some fun PE lessons.

**RE** In RE, we will be thinking about two questions this term: 'Did she make the right choices?' and 'How do Christians prepare for Christmas?'

**Homework** Please see below for a timetable of homework. Occasionally the way I set homework may vary depending on the topic but generally it will be CGP books

Mondays: CGP books are due.

Tuesdays: New CGP homework is handed out.

Three times a week: As part of their homework, the children should be reading at least 3 times a week and this should be signed by an adult in their Reading Record. This begins on a Friday and ends on a Thursday.

TTRS: Regular engagement with TTRS would be beneficial, especially if your child doesn't have quick recall of their times tables.

**VIP** We will be continuing with VIP this year which is always a lovely time to celebrate all the things each child brings to our school. If your child is a VIP (wearing a blue jumper), you are invited to attend our VIP assembly at 9am on Friday. Please can you wash the VIP jumper and return it to school the following Monday.



**Daily celebration** In order to be more environmentally friendly, we have moved away from prizes for 'Star of the Day' and are instead going to be celebrating examples of children letting their light shine throughout the day. This might be more than one child and we will be encouraging the children to look out for examples.

If you have any questions at any point over the term, please feel free to ask.

Kind regards,

Mrs Barnsley