



Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

How lovely to be back in the swing of things now! Year 5 have had a very hardworking start to the year and I have been impressed by their thirst for knowledge and curiosity. There have been a few achy hands at the end of the day with the increased amount of writing and rigour. On the whole however, they have made a very good start to the year, so thank you to both parents and pupils for that. In this topic letter I shall aim to outline our programme of study throughout the Autumn Term and aim to clarify my expectations regarding homework and other routines. Our topic for this term is 'BUILDING A MODERN WORLD', which covers a great deal of areas including one of my favourites, Tudor England.

Firstly, here is a brief outline of our areas of study:

- ✦ **Science:** Animals including Humans – looking at different life cycles; including understanding life processes and growth and change. Then moving onto look at forces and motion.
- ✦ **Geography:** Looking at Europe in more detail – mapping the changing borders through time including locational geography based on land use patterns and how places have changed. Also exploring important/famous landmarks and population density.
- ✦ **History:** Understanding Tudor England and the legacy and impact it had on Britain today. Studying the lives of key monarchs such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I
- ✦ **Design Technology:** Structures: Frame structures using CAD – creating frames for our portraits we create in Art.
- ✦ **Art:** Looking at an artist in focus – Hans Holbein as a figure of Tudor iconography – understanding both his preliminary sketches and then also his paintings and portraiture. Creating our own royal portraits too.
- ✦ **Religious Education:** Understanding Christianity – What does it mean if God is holy and loving? & How does the tawhid create a sense of belonging to the Muslim community? (Taught by Mrs. Apperley)
- ✦ **Computing:** Exploring Internet Safety and the importance of practising being safe and secure online. We will cover the SMART protocols as well as looking at the importance of security, passwords, phishing, ownership and plagiarism.
- ✦ **Music:** Charanga units covering Livin' on a Prayer (yes, we really are doing some Bon Jovi!) Plus, some individual lessons with our resident musical expert, Mr Jefferson!
- ✦ **Physical Education:** Hockey with Aspire Coaching on Wednesdays and Netball with me on a Friday.
- ✦ **Learning for Life (PSHE):** Online Safety, Dares and Shares – when is it safe?

In addition, **maths** and **literacy** lessons will be taught **daily** (linked to our topic work when appropriate). We aim to hear the children read once a week, more with certain children. This is usually done by our fantastic volunteer – Mr. Thomas, as well as our lovely teaching assistant Miss Lewis. As well as other opportunities to practise reading skills through our work in class. When you hear your child read at home, please remember to write in the yellow homework diary. I ask that all children are heard by an adult **at least once a week** as this also can aid their overall understanding of a higher-level text. I have also asked the children to write in their log book if they read to themselves at home also, as many are very independent. I offer house points for those who have read at least five times a week, however, I will only dish out the house points if an adult has also signed the homework diary to show this is truthful reading!

The children will have regular spellings and times tables to learn – these are set weekly. Spellings are given out on Friday and tested on Thursday, while times-tables are tested every Wednesday. Once the children are fully settled there will be additional homework tasks set weekly. I will set these at different points throughout the year with a focus on revising what we have previously studied in class.

H/W	SET	DUE/TESTED ON
<b>Spelling</b>	Friday	Thursday
<b>X Tables</b>	Wednesday	Wednesday
<b>Additional Homework</b>	Monday	Friday

We are looking into the possibility of trips linked to our overall topic (Hampton Court hopefully!) and will keep you posted regarding these in due course. Shortly, I will also be sending out a quick guide to Year 5 with some handy tips about how best to support your child at home with the learning we are doing in school. Playing Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Frame daily (even if only for 10mins) is my top tip at the moment!

The children will have two P.E. lessons per week. They will work with the Aspire coaches on Tuesdays and with me on Fridays.

By the time you receive this letter we will have completed the second week of term already! If there any further queries I am very happy to answer these and can usually be found in the classroom at the end of the day. I wish you a very safe and productive Autumn Term and can assure you that we are ALL working very hard in class to prepare the children for next year. We are doing this in a way that still nurtures the children’s personal pride, wellbeing and confidence.

With best wishes,



Mr. S. Ind