



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**PINE CLASS TRIP TOPIC LETTER – SPRING TERM 2025**

Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful festive period at home with your loved ones. Year 5 have made a good start to the year and are raring to get cracking with our new topic (very simply entitled!) 'Tudor Midhurst!' This is predominantly a local history and geography-based topic. We will be doing all kinds of activities linked to the history of our town and where possible will also link this with our work in reading and writing. In this topic letter I shall aim to outline our programme of study throughout the Spring Term and aim to clarify my expectations regarding homework and other routines. The children will continue to have Aspire for PE on the Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Apperley will also lead RE for the last hour on Tuesday with cover supervisors teaching other sessions (predominantly Geography, LfL and French) on Wednesday and Monday afternoons.

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

- Science: Physics based – finishing our unit of work on forces and motion before we start looking at Earth and Space.
- History: Local History Project – looking at and understanding the world of Tudor Midhurst – chronology and sourcework.
- Geography: Looking at and understanding physical geography – the formation of mountains and several case studies around the world.
- Design Technology: Evaluating, planning, designing and creating a board game in class using a wide range of DT skills
- Art: Observing at and sketching Tudor buildings in Midhurst and replicating these using cardboard sculpting and modelling techniques.
- Religious Education: Understanding Christianity – What would Jesus do? Alongside, continuing our stories from the Old Testament.
- Computing: Purple Mash: Unit 5.1 Coding, algorithms and debugging
- Music: Charanga unit: 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi and looking at rap music – Will Smith's 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air'
- Physical Education: Aspire will be running these lessons on Wednesday afternoons studying OAA [Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. Fridays with me will be based inside looking at badminton.
- LfL (Learning for Life or PSHE): Relationships – different types and what to do when it goes wrong.
- MFL: Pets and animals, adding opinions, descriptions and details to sentences.

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! I apologise that I have not been checking these with as much regularity as I would hope and will seek to rectify that throughout this term!

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.

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

We are looking into the possibility of trips linked to our overall topic and will keep you posted regarding these in due course. I would like to remind you all that the best way to support your child at home with the learning is reading lots and encouraging use of online games such Times Tables Rock Stars. Playing Times Tables Rock Stars daily (even if only for 10mins) according to educational research has a very positive impact on their arithmetical recall of times tables facts.

By the time you receive this letter we will have completed nearly one half 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 Spring 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