

# Year 5/6 Newsletter

November 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We really enjoyed our first topic, which appealed to many children. We started the topic off with a blast when children were asked to set up their own travel agent stall to encourage other children to vote for their chosen destination on World Tourism Day. This was such a great day and we feel that all children learnt a lot and got a lot out of the day. This WOW day pushed children in many directions, particularly their persuasive language techniques, which were showcased in their final piece of writing for the term. Well done to all children that worked extremely hard during our first term together.

## Topics

We are really excited about our upcoming topic: "Who had to keep calm and carry on?" during World War I and World War II. We will be particularly focusing on the soldiers of the war, home fronts, bombings, concentration camps and how rationing was used throughout the war. We will be used a variety of texts over the coming weeks, with an emphasis on 'Billy Kid' by Michael Morpurgo and 'Rose Blanche' by Ian McEwan, which is a beautifully illustrated picture book, aimed to enthuse the children and support their writing ideas. As always, children are more than welcome to bring their own copy of the text into the classroom to use within the lessons. Along with these two texts, we will delve into a couple of other World War books including: 'War Horse', 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Goodnight Mr Tom'.

We will use the topic of World War I and World War II as the foundation for other subjects too, including Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and RE, hoping to incorporate their learning of the war throughout each subject. As always, there will be a strong focus throughout the term on e-safety, covering areas such as: how to stay safe online, cyber bullying and safe and responsible use of technology. We appreciate your support in these areas as much of the children's exposure to technology and online activity happens at home.

## Charities

Our Chaplaincy team thought it would be a great idea for each class to focus on their own charity this year. Therefore, they led their own Liturgy and asked Mrs Jones to reveal a charity for each class in the school. We are really excited to announce that the following charities will be supported by the children in our class:

Miss Sweeney's class - Nottingham Children's Hospital

Miss Pugh's class - Rainbows

Miss Macdonald's class - Treetops Hospice

Children will be encouraged to pray for their charity, raise awareness across the school and think about ways we can raise money to support.

## Reading and Homework

All of the children have been issued with a new home/school diary. This diary can be used to communicate with us as well as providing you with information about what your child is currently doing in school. It will also tell you what your child's current targets are. Please ensure you check your child's diary regularly and sign it each week. As with reading books, please encourage them to make sure they have it in school everyday!

Please ensure that your child is reading at home as often as possible (ideally every day!). As usual they will be issued with school reading books and should also be encouraged to read other material available to them at home. Please encourage your child to ensure they have their reading book in school every day, as teachers and other members of staff will hear them read at least once a week. In Year 5 and 6, we have a 'Book Point' system. For every two times your child reads and this is initialled in their diaries, they will receive one book point. Whenever they have been awarded 50 book points, they will receive a reward. We hope this will encourage them to read more at home on their own or to someone they know.

We have sent home a copy of the term's homework expectations with your child. There is an overall project, as well as some basic skills for your children to complete. Please ensure this is handed in on the given date. The children need to become more independent in ensuring their homework is completed but please feel free to support them as needed. Timestables Rock Stars also continues to be a success, with children enthused to compete against each other. Please encourage your children to be using this app regularly to help improve their times tables.

Our Michael Morpurgo reading challenge continues, with the child who has read the most Morpurgo books by Christmas time winning a prize in each class!

### School Website

Please keep an eye on the school website for updated information and pictures of the children's work and activities on the class pages. Children that are part of the Chaplaincy team have also set up their own page on the website, which is updated regularly - so keep a look out.

### Equipment

Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment with them at school. PE kits should be in school at **all times** with all items of clothing clearly labelled. Y5/6 will have PE on a Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. May we remind you that this consists of a **plain white t-shirt, blue shorts/skirt, plimsolls or trainers**. A plain dark tracksuit may be worn for outdoor lessons. Earrings must be removed and children must be able to do this themselves. The children may also bring a bottle of water with them to school and we would really encourage all children to do so - this can really boost their brain power! Please make sure this is in a labelled bottle and that your child brings it home to be washed and refilled each day.

During the year we may undertake additional activities such as cooking, DT and visits within the local community. We therefore ask that, if possible, you could donate a £3 voluntary contribution (£1 a term) to cover costs. We would be very grateful for your support with this.

### Y5 Swimming

The children in Year 5 will be swimming this year at West Park Leisure Centre. These will continue to be led by Mrs Taylor, Mrs Chambers and Mrs Shaw on a Tuesday afternoon. The children will be split into two groups and swim for 3 half-terms each. The current swimming group will continue swimming this term.

We hope that you have found this newsletter useful and have learnt a little about what your child will be doing over the coming term. If you do have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at school - we are always available on the playground at the end of the day!

We look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming parents evening.

Yours sincerely

*K. MacDonald*

*E. Pugh*

*N. Sweeney*

Miss K MacDonald

Miss E Pugh

Miss N Sweeney