

Year 5/6 Newsletter

January 2019

Dear Parents,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you have had a lovely festive season and are ready and raring for all that the New Year has to offer. After a very busy Advent term, the children continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, stamina, bringing in some incredible WW1 and WW2 projects to the classroom. Last term was full of teaching and learning, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We were lucky enough to attend the Games of Remembrance to celebrate 100 years since the guns fell silent in World War 1 - please check our website for some photos of the day. We would like to thank all of those that came to our Victory in Europe WOW day. The children learnt a lot from our visitors and really understood the reasoning behind our celebration.

Topics

Our topic for the first half of the Lent Term is "What remains of our early settlers?" in which we will be learning all about the Saxon and Viking civilisations, their invasion of Britain and the changes/impact they had on the country. This topic will be supported by the text 'Beowulf'. Children can bring their own copy of the text into class to use in lessons. There are several different versions that we will be using, to compare how stories can be told in different ways, so any version that appeals to your child is welcome! We will of course also continue to develop the key areas of Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and RE alongside this.

There will be a strong focus throughout this term on e-safety, covering areas such as: how to stay safe online, cyber bullying and safe and responsible use of technology. We have our online safety day coming up in February and we are looking forward to seeing what the Online Safety guardians have planned for us. We appreciate your support in these areas as much of the children's exposure to technology and online activity happens at home.

We have planned an exciting trip to York to visit the Jorvik Centre. There will be more details to follow shortly.

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. For the Year Fives, 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.

The Year Sixes will begin to receive more regular weekly homework in preparation for SATs and the transition to secondary school and so will not have the usual homework format. They will be given a homework book. Please ensure they keep up to date with any homework given and that they always have their homework books in school.

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's work in RE, Collective Worship and Catholic Life is also displayed on our website. So, if your child has been part of a whole-school or class liturgy, then their work may be shown on there, alongside updates of what the Chaplaincy team have been up to recently.

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.

Y5 Swimming

The children in Year 5 have been thoroughly enjoying their swimming sessions at West Park Leisure Centre on a Tuesday afternoon. These sessions continue to be led by Mrs Taylor and Mrs Chambers. Swimming will begin for our first swimming group on Tuesday 15th January for five weeks. After February half term, we will swap groups and the children in group two will then begin their swimming lessons until the end of the school year. Please keep an eye out for any extra information we may share with you with regards to this.

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