



Holdbrook Primary and Nursery School

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term - 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the new academic year. I hope that you have had a lovely summer.

English

- This term we are studying *Tom's Midnight Garden* - a tale of time travel, self-discovery and adventure across the ages!
- In addition to our class novel, we will be reading a range of other texts, including short stories, poems and non-fiction as part of our work in English and other subjects across the curriculum. These will be reflected in the range of writing that children produce.
- Pupils are always encouraged to proof read their work, to identify and correct any errors in spelling and punctuation
- There is focus this term on understanding and be able to use more complex grammar structures, to enable more sophisticated writing.



Mathematics



- We will continue to focus on increasing familiarity with times tables and how this links with efficient calculations.
- Pupils will learn how to apply the skills they learn to real life problem solving.
- An important focus for this academic year is 'Reasoning', hence pupils will be encouraged think critically about the solutions they are finding, rather than just coming up with an answer.

Topic

Our topic this term is The Time Traveller - this will go across several curriculum areas and even ties in with our English text. Children will be positively engaged at the beginning of each half-term, with exciting experiences to ensure a child-led approach which encourages strong progress in all areas.

Already, we have interviewed someone born in a different time period (the 1950s) to find out what childhood was like then. In terms of Geography, one of the things we will be considering is how the local area has changed over the last 100 years. Following that, next half-term our theme will be 'Off with her head!' with a strong History theme.



Science



Our science topic this term will focus on animals, including the stages of human development; for instance, what are the signs of ageing and what impact does that have on the body. Children will be encouraged to devise fair tests, predict their outcome and evaluate their results for various elements of the Science curriculum.

Religious Education

The children will be finding out about religious festivals, of various faiths, as they arise through the year. As Christmas approaches, we will learn about the significance of this celebration to Christians and we have already looked at Eid.



Physical Education

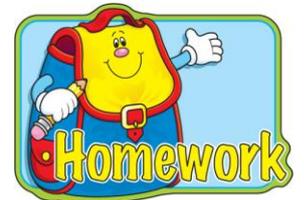


In PE we will be building a variety of skills and the children will also continue to go swimming every Tuesday for the first term and a half. It is important that pupils have the correct kit for all PE sessions and that earrings are not worn to school on days the children have PE.

In addition, the children will be participating in Spanish lessons with our new Spanish teacher.

Homework

- Please encourage your child to read every night and listen to your child reading aloud daily, wherever possible and sign the planner.
- Each week children will take home spellings. These words are specific 'must knows' for Year 5. It will help if you can discuss the word meanings and spelling rules at home and encourage your child to learn them.
- Written mathematics and English homework is sent home each Thursday. The purpose of this is to consolidate learning. It is due back the following Monday. In addition, this term there is a lovely choice of topic homework, the details of which have been sent home already. Please encourage your child to choose at least two of these activities and take responsibility for completing them themselves and returning them on time, during this first half-term.
- Computer based activities are available on Maths Whizz which automatically tailors weekly lessons to each child's individual needs. This is a very useful learning tool so please encourage your child to use them at home or in the local library.



I am available Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays after school, should you have any concerns or queries.

Kind regards.

Mrs Burrows.