



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a well-deserved break over the recent holiday. I am delighted to be teaching your children in Year 5 for the rest of the year in what looks to be a busy but exciting two terms. Below is an outline of the learning you can expect your child to be complete over the Spring term.

### **English**

This term the children will begin by carrying out a topic named 'Earthlings'. As part of this unit they shall be reading a range of texts including Space Boy and Mars Diaries, as well as a range of Space related poems written by Pie Corbett. During this unit the children will have many opportunities to develop their written skills by writing a diary entry, a short narrative and a poem. The children will consider the use of vocabulary, used particularly to provide additional detail. They will also work on identifying characters, settings and events within the story before writing their own piece of narrative text.

During the second half term, the children will carry out the topic Inventors and Inventions. As part of this unit they shall be reading a range of texts linked to this topic but focusing particularly on Mortimer Keen: Attack of the Slime. There will once again be a range of writing opportunities throughout the term and also a focus on the children developing their ability to read aloud using appropriate intonation and expression.

Guided reading sessions will take place three days a week from this term. The children will have the opportunity to practise reading aloud as well as further develop their comprehension skills and work on their vocabulary, grammar and punctuation skills. The children will work in groups to develop a range of reading skills in these sessions. The children will also have the opportunity to hear a whole class novel read aloud at least three times each week. Our novels for Spring term are The Iron Woman and Friend or Foe.

### **Maths**

Lessons in Maths will continue to follow the Power Maths scheme. Year 5 will begin by focusing on multiplication and division, using multiplication tables they know to solve problems and calculations including multiplying two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers. They will use a wide range of both mental and formal written methods in order to do this. Next, they will work on a unit adding and subtracting money. After half term the children will focus on fractions and learn how to convert mixed fractions to mixed numbers, learn what equivalent fractions are, interpret number sequences involving fractions, compare and order fractions and learn how to divide fractions by integers. The children will also be learning how to add and subtract fractions that have different denominators, how to multiply fractions together, how to calculate fractions of amounts and learning how to convert fractions to decimals.

### **Religious Education (RE)**

In the first half term, Year 5 will be exploring the key question 'Why do Christians believe that Jesus was a great teacher?' The children will consider what they know about Jesus through their previous studies in RE and discuss the characteristics that they believe make someone a great teacher. They will then read a range of parables and reflect on the key message in each of the parables and also why Jesus was a great teacher in each.

During the second half of the Spring term, as part of a unit of work linked to Easter, we will be answering the question: Why do Christians believe that Easter is a celebration of Victory? In these lessons, Year 5 will explore how each year we mourn Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. They will discuss why this event had to happen and then reflect on why Christians celebrate Easter Sunday, when they celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

## **Science**

This term, the children will begin by learning about 'Properties and the Changes of Materials' We will explore different types of materials and consider why everyday objects are made of the materials that they are. Throughout the term we shall be carrying out a range of scientific experiments. These include some of the following: separating iron filings from sand, separating sugar from water, exploring how much liquid different brands of nappy can hold.

The children will also be spending time planning their experiments, considering the aim of each experiment, predictions, apparatus, method and results. They shall also learn and be encouraged to use scientific vocabulary such as dependent variable, independent variable and controlled variable.

## **Computing**

Mr Cross will continue teaching Year 5 Computing. This term, the children will begin by further developing their Coding skills, building on the knowledge they gained in the previous half term. After half term they will learn how online games are created before putting their skills to the test and creating their own educational game. The children will continue to follow the Purple Mash scheme which is still accessible from home. Please contact Mr Cross if your child has misplaced their login details.

## **PE**

Year 5 have PE on a Monday and a Wednesday throughout the Spring Term. Each Monday, during Spring Term, the children will be continue developing their Swimming skills. Please ensure that they have their swimming kit with them on this day. Each Wednesday, Miss Wardman will be carrying out Dance: learning a variety of techniques, subject specific vocabulary and using everything they have learnt to carry out a performance at the end of the half term. Following on from this, the class will then be learning about Invasion Games, with a particular focus on Hockey. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their PE kits each Wednesday.

## **History**

This term the children will be developing an understanding of the Mayan Civilisation and who the Mayans were. They will learn about where the Maya lived, their everyday lives and general culture. They will also be researching their religious beliefs and comparing them with Christian beliefs. The children will learn about the connection that the Mayans have to hot chocolate, create and taste their own Mayan hot chocolate and undertake some cross curricular writing as they write a recipe detailing how the made the hot chocolate.

## **Geography**

Year 5 will be developing their knowledge and understanding of 'The Water Cycle' this term. They will be learning the key terminology associated with the process, such as: condensation, precipitation, evaporation, groundwater flow and surface run off. The children will then carry out a cross curriculum piece of independent writing in which they imagine they are a water droplet and they must describe each step of their journey, using the appropriate vocabulary.

## **Art**

This term the children will focus on textiles, in particular the works of William Morris. They will also consider the works of Laura Oldfield. Using her examples of mixed media and carbon images as inspiration, the children will then create their own images of Blackpool using these skills.

## **Design and Technology (DT)**

Cooking and nutrition will be the focus throughout the Spring term. The children will be exploring the ways in which biscuits are made and appraising different types of biscuits. They will be able to design and create their own biscuit and work safely with different tools. The children will be mindful of the Space theme throughout the creation process. To end the unit, the children will evaluate what went well with their work and what they would improve if they were to make the biscuits again.

## **French**

This term we will begin with the unit 'Going Shopping' in which the children will learn key vocabulary to help them if they were shopping in the supermarket. They will then carry out the unit 'Where in the World' which practises knowledge of countries and cities. Mr Cross will be teaching French this term.

## **Music**

The children will focus on listening to the music of South and West Africa and in particular focusing on the traditional South African song called Shosholoz. The children will be learning the words to this song to sing in a performance alongside instruments and dance movements. In the second half of the term, the children will be focusing on composition to represent the festival of colour, with a study into The Holi Festival.

## **PSHE**

Year 3 will continue to follow the Heartsmart scheme of work this year. We will begin with 'Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy' (learning about thinking about others not just ourselves). After half term, we will be moving onto 'Don't Rub it In, Rub it Out'. We will also be addressing these themes in our class workshops each week.

**Kind regards,**

**Mr Blackburn**

## **Spring Term Key Dates**

Y5 Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Parent Consultations – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Finish for half term – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

School opens - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Y5 Home Learning Showcase - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Finish for Easter -Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

School reopens – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April