



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 5

Spring Term 2017
(Termly Class Letter)

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Issue 2

Welcome back after your Christmas break and we hope you had a relaxing time. The children have settled well into Year 5 and are working with confidence and enthusiasm in all lessons. This term they will have an opportunity to consolidate and extend their learning in new topics. Here is some information relating to the curriculum and the activities that we have planned for the children in the coming term.

English

We will continue to look at narrative writing based around our topic. We will focus our literacy using a "How to Train your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell as our key text. This enables us to explore a variety text types; including diary, description, poetry, newspaper and traditional story writing. Reading and listening to stories is very important; it offers the children a rich and varied vocabulary to support their writing development and fosters a life-long love of literacy. Our grammar focus is linked to the narrative writing and will include; word classes, varied punctuation, sentence structure using main and subordinate clauses (relative and modal clauses).

Reading

This term, we will continue to read the book 'Wild Boy', which we are all thoroughly enjoying. This offers the children an opportunity to practice reading aloud and also discuss the characters and plot using the new reading guidelines. We will still be monitoring the children's home reading and will expect them to bring in their planners each week. We would like the children to write in their records what they are reading and write a short comment about the book. The children will continue to visit the school library and we will be reading aloud regularly to the children during English lessons.

Maths

We will continue to follow the maths curriculum and focus on the four main areas of maths; place value, the four operations, shape and space and data handling. It is paramount that the children know their times tables up to 12 x 12 and their corresponding division facts as these are integral to all aspects of this subject.

Science

For the first half term our science topic is Earth, Sun and Moon. As part of this topic we will find out how the Earth moves, the names of the planets in our solar system, how seasons occur and how night and day are created. Our science topic for the second half of the autumn term will be Forces. Children will learn about the force of gravity, identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces and understand that force and motion can be transferred through mechanical devices such as gears, pulleys, levers and springs.

Spring 1 topic: '**Anglo-Saxons and Vikings**'.

As part of this topic we will include work relating to the geography and history of this period of British history. Our topic lessons will encompass geographical, historical, musical, scientific, artistic and ICT skills. Our French lessons will also be linked to our topic. We will look at Anglo Saxon life the impact of the invasion of the Vikings. From looking at artefacts, the children will be able to gain an insight into life long ago.

Spring 2 topic: '**Judaism**'

As part of this topic we will be focusing on Judaism and hope to visit a synagogue. We will learn about Shabbat and Passover and the significance for Jewish people. The children will find out about rituals and festivals associated with Judaism.

If you have any books or resources which we can use in lessons, please do get in touch.

In **PE** our focus for this half term will be dodge ball and rugby. It is essential that children have their PE kits in school every day. This includes a Rhodes Avenue T-shirt (available from the school office), shorts, jogging bottoms, warm top and appropriate footwear. Children will be asked to remove or cover earrings before taking part in their PE session.

This half term, Year 5 will be having rugby training on a Friday. Each class will have two lessons of PE a week, comprising swimming, rugby or dodge ball.

In **Music** we will be describing, comparing and evaluating music as well as performing to their peers and in class assemblies.

Homework

Homework at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of homework is to develop pupil independence and resilience.

The grammar homework will go out on **Friday** and be handed in on the following **Wednesday** in a designated grammar homework book. On **Fridays**, the children will be given a list of spelling words to learn and be tested on the following **Friday**.

There will also be maths homework set on **Wednesday** to reinforce the maths concepts taught that week. This homework needs to be returned by **Friday**. Times tables tests will take place regularly. It is important that the children know their tables off by heart as they are integral to all aspects of maths. In Year 5 we expect the children to complete their homework assignments independently. We always appreciate homework of a high standard and expect the children to show care and consideration with all their work.

Important Spring term dates for your diaries:

5JF's class assembly	Friday 20 th January (9:10am)
Y5 on-road cycling	Monday 23 rd January (bike check Monday 16 th Jan)
Class trip	Wednesday 8 th February & Thursday 9 th February
Half-term holiday	Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th February
INSET DAY	Friday 31 st March
Easter Holiday	3 rd April - 17 th April
Children return to school	18 th April

Other Information

In year 5 we continue to encourage all children to become independent, organised and ready to learn.

Our School Values for this term are: Patience and Courage

Educational Visits

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school. We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible, however we recognise this can become costly.

We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimum by using pupil transport or by visiting free exhibitions. (This cost, of course, excludes the residential visits that take place in Year 5 and 6)

Healthy Schools

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School please ensure that your child's playtime snack is fresh fruit and/or vegetables. Water will always be available during the school day, however we are happy for you to bring into school a bottle of water (clearly labelled).

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We looking forward to working with you,
James Farmer, Shari Tickell and Alison Davies

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