



# Autumn Curriculum Newsletter Year 5

## Key Dates and Important messages

The pupils will receive homework each week which will comprise of Spellings, Maths and a Reading Comprehension. We expect the children to complete homework on time with good presentation in their homework books. Homework is handed out every Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday; please let us know if you have any problems with the homework - we will be happy to help. We will also be using Topic webs where the children choose 2 activities out of 9 to complete across the whole half term on our Enquiry topic.

We strongly advise that the children should be reading every day at home for approximately 20 minutes and this is recorded in their Reading Record.

Please make sure that all school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's first and second name. Can you please ensure that your child has their full P.E. kit in school at all times.

Trip: British Museum on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October – more details will be sent out soon ☺

## Talk for writing

Following on from our work on Alice in Wonderland, we are looking at the Spiderwick Chronicles. This is a fantasy based set of books and the children will be writing with suspense in mind. In Talk for Writing, the children are given opportunities to immerse themselves in the model text, explain how the text makes them feel as a reader and explore how the author has done this.

### How can you help?

Encourage your children to describe the things around them. Make use of all their senses; what can they see? Hear? Smell? Feel? What kinds of description do they know?

Practise the weekly spellings with your child.

## Maths Mastery

The children will be learning place value, calculations, estimating and rounding. The main focus at the start of term is place value up to 1,000,000 and the four basic operations. Maths Mastery encourages the use of resources to secure the children's understanding of key maths concepts.

### How you can help

Please ensure your child learns their timetables as this will help them in all areas of Maths as well as with Cracking Times Tables. Any real life scenarios will also help e.g. adding up the shopping, working out the time until...

## PSHE and RE

In RE, we are learning about Sikhism this term.

In PSHE, we are learning about healthy living and maintaining a positive outlook.

### How you can help

Encourage your children to think about the positive ☺

## Enquiry curriculum

Year 5 will be answering the question "Why do powerful people rise and fall?" This is a cross curricular learning journey based on the Shang Dynasty which will incorporate many different subjects, including geography, history, science and computing. This long-term project will end with an overall final product which we will share with you nearer the time.

### How you can help

The Shang Dynasty isn't very well-known so you could research it with your child.

## **Reading**

This year we are continuing to focus on reading at Wexham, ensuring our children are the best readers they can be. As you know, reading is a vital skill for our children to develop and it ensures their success in all other areas of the curriculum. This term we are focusing on developing children's fluency and confidence in reading as well as developing their vocabulary. They will be exposed to a range of challenging texts. We will be developing children's confidence through drama and discussion, encouraging them to share their views and opinions.

At home, your child should be reading every day. Please take some time to visit the local library and explore different texts, such as non-fiction, plays, poetry and graphic novels.

We use Accelerated Reader at Wexham to ensure your child has an appropriate reading book for their reading age. The children complete a quiz after they have finished their book to monitor their understanding of what they are reading.

## **Health and well-being**

As you are aware, we as a school are committed to developing our children to not only become lifelong learners but people who are healthy both in mind and body. For this reason, we are a part of a programme called 'Active Movement', which is focussed on encouraging children to be just a little bit more active in the day, such as stand up to answer, move around the class when saying their times tables. In addition to this, children will be going on Active walks around the school (you will see the posters around the school) and enjoying the lovely site we have. As well as exercising, it is imperative we teach our children how to eat healthily, as habits are formed very early in life. Hence we have put together a healthy eating policy which can be accessed on the school website or from the school office. We talk to children about their mental well-being in school and have worry boxes for them to share their anxieties or concerns with their teachers. To help your children at home, encourage your children to share what they did at school, any concerns they had or things they are excited about.

## **Problem solving**

Children spend every day in school going over their times table and in addition to their normal maths lesson the children have a Maths Meet, in which we share and recap previous learning practising and refining skills which have already been taught. This daily revisit enables the muscle memory to remember the mathematical concepts and become embedded. Timetables are something which will be remembered if you practise daily. You can do this through games, reciting, different computer apps or songs.

To enable your children to become problem solvers, why not give them real –life problems to solve where they can practise and apply their maths learning. For example asking them to work out how many minutes or hours till the bus arrives, the change given in the shop, how many ingredients you need if you double the quantity.

Mathletics is an invaluable resource that you can use at home to support your child: <http://uk.mathletics.com/>