



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

October 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

For our second half of the autumn term in Year 5, we have a main topic of 'Mexico and the Mayans'; not only looking at Mexico as a modern day country, but also the ancient civilisation of the Mayans. We will be using different sources of research, including the internet to find out about Mexico and the Mayans.



MAIN LEARNING THEME

The main learning areas are history and geography, but we will also be looking at the similarities and differences between Mexico and the UK.

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Cenote = an open pit of water

Codex = an ancient manuscript

Excavate = to remove by scooping or digging out

Hieroglyphs = writing that uses pictures, characters, or symbols to represent words or sounds

Jade = green and sometimes whitish minerals used mainly as gemstones or in carvings

Motif = a recurring architectural or decorative design

Stele = an upright stone or slab with an inscribed or sculptured surface, used as a monument or as a commemorative tablet in the face of a building

MATHS

In maths, we will be looking at written methods for multiplication, as well as investigation skills and application of number to real life situations. We will continue with our Assertive Mentoring programme for maths (with children learning in small focused groups), ensuring children are making good progress within this scheme and moving on when they are ready. Children need to continue to learn their multiplication facts up to 12 x 12 as this will help them with their mathematical workings. Regular tables practice is included in weekly homework tasks.

ENGLISH

In Literacy and Language, we will be looking at Poetry and Persuasive Writing. We will be linking our topic work with this genre and promoting imaginative writing within historic recounts, story writing, poetry and persuasive writing.

Supporting books:

'Goodnight Stroud' by Pie Corbett

'Last Night, I Saw The City Breathing' by Andrew Fusek Peters

Suggested wider reading:

Any books by Jeremy Strong: Ratburger, Gangsta Granny, The Boy in the Dress, Billionaire Boy

Mr Stink – David Walliams

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Jeff Kinney

Gum books – Andy Stanton

Alex Rider books – Anthony Horowitz

The Power of Five books – Anthony Horowitz

Children should continue to read and discuss an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks.



PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

We will be inviting you to spend an afternoon in the classroom with us, taking part in making Mexican crafts and tasting Mexican food. We hope this will be an exciting and fun event for you to share with your children. More details to follow after the half term break.

PE

PE will be covered in two one-hour sessions each week. Please ensure your child has both indoor and outdoor kit in school with them all week. Please send this kit in with your child on Monday and take home on Friday of each week to be washed. Children with long hair will need to have it tied back for safety reasons. Any earrings (studs only are allowed in school) will also have to be removed (by the child) or covered with a plaster. Please ensure that your child has a clean PE kit each week. Trainers or plimsolls are essential and as the weather gets colder during winter, they will need a warmer top and track suit bottoms as well.

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a Maths and an English homework task each week. The homework will be given out on Wednesday after school, to be returned the following week on Wednesday morning.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half-term home learning project to do with 'Mexico and the Mayans', which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better! Your child can use the Internet to carry out research, create PowerPoints, use photographs, diagrams with annotations etc.

READING

Please continue to read with your child at home. Each week, they will be given 1 or 2 reading books which they can share with you at home and will be changed weekly. Year 5 have the opportunity to visit the library and learn about all the different types of books and how to use a library.

BREAK TIME SNACK

A piece of fruit for break time snack is appropriate. Please remember that we encourage healthy eating. We must also remind you that we are a nut free school. Do not send your child to school with any food item containing nuts.

SCHOOL MEALS

A hot school meal is available each day for your child's lunch. Please make payments by using Parentpay, our secure online payment system. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties with ParentPay.

END OF THE DAY

Please feel free to use this time to talk to us about any concerns you may have, however if you need more than a few minutes then you can always make an appointment for a more convenient time.

Mrs Marlow
Class Teacher

Mrs McFarland
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Gill
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

