



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

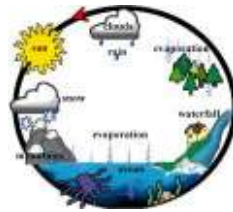
Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

December 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

For our first half of the Spring term in Year 5, we have a main topic of **'Wild Water!** We will be using maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate rivers within cities and counties in the UK, countries, and continents around the world. We will be learning how rivers are formed and the process of the water cycle. We will also be looking at the effects of flooding and tsunamis. This promises to be an exciting topic, covering a wide range of skills and learning, which we would like to share with you in a class assembly (date to be decided nearer the time).



MAIN LEARNING THEME

The main learning areas of our topic – **'Wild Water'** are geography and science, but will also include computing, music and art.

Key vocabulary:

Rivers, lake, stream, waterfall, mountain, valley, erosion, mouth, ox-bow, meander, bridge, course, upper, middle, lower source/origins, water, mouth, flow, meander, spring, estuary, tributary, water cycle, evaporation, condensation, run off, precipitation, transpiration, accumulation, depth, speed, rate of flow.

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

We will be holding a class assembly, in which we will showcase what we have learnt about this topic. The date will be decided nearer the time, but you will be given ample time to make arrangements to attend.

MATHS

We will be covering the following topic areas in Maths in the first half of Spring term:

- Negative numbers and solving problems involving numbers.
- Addition and subtraction of large numbers and money.
- Long multiplication, square, numbers and cube numbers.
- Division: mental and written methods.
- Reflections and translations.
- Mass.

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 **biography and autobiography**, followed by **stories from another culture**. First, we will be exploring how biographies and autobiographies give different insights into people's lives. We will look at how different types of biographical texts are organised to make it easier for readers to find information and we will eventually write a short biography of a prominent children's author. Then, we will look at the cultural and geographical contexts of stories and also, characterisation. The outcome from this will be that children write their own adventure in a similar narrative style.

Supporting books:

'This is NOT a Fairy Tale by Jeremy Strong
Dragon Slayer by Gill Howell

Suggested wider reading:

One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children – Micheal Harrison

Classic Poems for Children – Nicola Baxter

New and Collected Poems for Children – Carol Ann Duffy

'Jeremy Strong biography and autobiography

'Anthony Horowitz biography'

How to Train a Dragon (series) – Cressida Cowell

Dragon Rider – Cornelia Funke

The Dragonkeeper trilogy – Carole Wilkinson

Working with Dragons – Helen Ward

The Hobbit – JR Tolkien

Secret of the Sirens – Julia Golding

'The Kraken'

'A Dragon Spotter's Guide to the Chinese Lung Dragon

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

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 are essential for outdoor PE at this time of year, 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 'POWER project', which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. Ideas of what this could cover are 'Water all around us' (UK and homes) or alternatively, 'Watercolours' (Impressionism in Art) as we will be studying Claude Monet.

Activities should include opportunities to:

- Develop creativity
- Explore mathematical skills
- Extend research skills
- Explore the locality

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

