

7th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you enjoyed half term and that the children are looking forward to being back at school for the final term of the year!

This term we are continuing with our topic on "South America". We will learn about rivers and also look at the geography of South America, comparing it that of the UK. To enhance our learning, we are continuing to read "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell. The children have become engrossed with the story and the many twists and turns it takes – and they are becoming very good at predicting what is going to happen, often based on inferences they have made from what we have read so far. It is a story which illustrates the resilience and resourcefulness of children, encouraging children to take informed risks and find their own boundaries. We will be writing a story based on one of the main characters in the book, writing about how he came to be where he is now and why he is still there – I am looking forward to seeing the imaginative responses from the children as they write!

In Maths, Year 5 will continue with the Year 5 curriculum and cover decimals, negative numbers and converting units of measurement. Following their SATs, Year 6 have completed the curriculum and will therefore be working on some "real life" Maths problems, enabling them to revisit their learning from this year, using their Maths knowledge in a realistic context.

In RE, we are asking the question "What kind of king is Jesus?" In order to answer this, we will look at the teachings of Jesus on the Kingdom of God as well as looking at ways Christians demonstrate what they believe about the Kingdom of God and how they might show this in their local community as well as the wider world.

In Science, our theme is "Scientists and Inventors" and we will be looking at Scientists who are linked to the different topics we have covered this year – including David Attenborough (Living Things and Their Habitats) and Stephanie Kwolek, who invented 'Kevlar' – a very hard plastic used in fireproof clothing, protective clothing and diving equipment (Properties and Changes of Materials).

Year 6 Activity Week – this is taking place between 27th and 30th June, Year 6 will be out of school for that week. During this week, Year 5 will join Mr Martin and their Year 5 peers again, just as they did during SATs week last term. As before, Mr Martin is planning a week of special activities for them to complete together, which I am sure they will enjoy!

Practical Information:

PE Days – Our PE days are **Monday** and **Thursday**. On **Monday**, children should come to school wearing their PE kit - house T-shirt and shorts for outdoor PE lessons. A cap would also be advisable as the sun gets stronger. On **Thursday**, we also have **Forest School** on **Thursday afternoon**. All the class will be going outside during these sessions, Mr Chidwick, Mrs Heath and I will be with them and we will continue to start our session with **OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities)** before our Forest School activities and outdoor activities (such as looking after our lovely grounds, our outdoor area and the Spiritual Garden). Please ensure the children have appropriate clothing for Forest School as well as a coat and/or waterproof coat and their wellies. **They will do OAA activities in their Forest School kit.**

Reading - Reading books are sent home every day and they need to be brought to school, with your child's Reading Record, signed, each day. Please do listen to your child read as much as you can, this really helps them to develop their reading skills. Please also use the information in the Reading Record to assist with reading at home, as well as spellings.

Times Table Rock Stars and SATs Companion – the children all have log-ins for both SATs Companion and TTRS and I would encourage them to continue to use them! TTRS is a fantastic programme for developing fluency in times tables, covering multiplication and division facts – and gives the children chance to compete against each other! Even though SATs have now finished, the children can still use SATs Companion to reinforce any learning we are doing in class – this is particularly important for Year 5 children as they prepare to move into Year 6 next year. Year 6 children can use it to help them revisit their learning in readiness for starting secondary school in September.

Mrs Heath and I are looking forward to a super final term with you and your children. If you need to contact us, please do so via the school office. Thank you!

Regards

Miss R Cooper and Mrs C Heath

