

Happy New Year!

We hope that you have all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period and are fully relaxed and rested just like we are. After a fantastic start to Year 5, we hope that the children are focused and ready to go for an exciting term ahead.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Mayan topic, which will be the core theme throughout the term, allowing the children to make cross-curricular links and explore new learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss your child or any queries. You can contact the office or email us.

Miss Vanson & Mr Hunt

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The Mystery of the Mayans...

The children will immerse themselves in understanding the wonders of Mesoamerica and the history left behind by the Mayans.

To support the children's understanding, they will learn about climate zones, biomes, world countries and their capital cities, particularly those in North, Central and South America.

During the topic, there will be a Mayan workshop led by an expert enabling the children to bring their learning to life and consolidate understanding. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Homework

Guided Reading: Set: Monday Due: Thursday the same week

Maths: Set: Monday Due: Friday the same week

Guided Reading homework will continue to be set via Google Classroom. Maths homework will continue to be given as a paper copy to be completed at home. Children should spend no longer than 40 minutes on reading homework (in addition to any reading time) and 30 minutes on maths.

We would very much appreciate you reading with, and to, your child regularly as it really does make a difference especially to comprehension and developing vocabulary. We will also be promoting reading for pleasure throughout the year through use of our book corners and teacher and peer recommendations and sharing class stories and novels.



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February – Parents' Evening

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February – Half Term

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th February – INSET Days

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Wednesday 12th March – Mayan Day (details to follow)

Guided Reading

After a successful start to our guided reading this year, the children will now be starting exciting new books, experiencing a different genre and author.

The children will continue to develop their vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. The children would benefit from completing their homework independently to give us a clear view of their understanding. However, if your child has needed help, please let us know so that we can support them in school.

Each homework is individually marked so children need to look at all feedback and act upon it before the next session.

Computing

The children will revisit e-safety and learn how to protect their personal information online.

They will learn about the different tools and features for programs such as Word, Publisher and Excel. This will enable them to make informed decisions about the most appropriate program to use for different tasks.

P.E.

The children will be improving their hockey skills, specifically passing and dribbling a hockey ball before revisiting gymnastics with a focus on incorporating equipment into routines. They will then be taking part in country dancing before finishing the term revisiting tag rugby and playing competitive matches.

Art

As the Mayans decorated walls with frescoes, we will explore the effects of different medium, brushes and strokes for background and detail work to then work in groups to create an imitation fresco on a larger scale. Building on Year 4 skills, the children will develop perspective in drawing.

English

The children will write in a variety of different genres including informative texts, balanced arguments, narrative and poetry. We will use the Mayans to inspire some of this writing as well as other stimuli linked to the wider curriculum. We will focus once again on advanced punctuation and sentence structure and improving spelling and handwriting.

Life Skills

Our life skills focus is based around living in the wider world and diversity in Britain. The children will learn about identity and how this makes everybody different from one another. We will also look at stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice which can unfortunately impact our identity.

Maths

We will be extending the children's understanding of fractions and decimals before introducing percentages. They will learn how to measure and calculate area and perimeter. Building on prior learning the children will draw and measure angles and use this knowledge to reason about shapes. We will look further into measure, including time and volume.

Regular practise of key calculation skills will continue with daily fluency to aid in the children retaining important learning.

RE

We will be exploring the five pillars of Islam and the commitments Muslims make to their religion.

Science and Design & Technology

In science, we will be learning about electro and thermal conductivity with the opportunity to investigate these through a range of experiments. This will link with our DT project where we will be designing and building a shelter suitable for an archaeologist investigating the Ancient Mayans.

Music

The children be exploring a variety of untuned instruments and using these to create compositions based on the Mayan Pok-a-Tok game. They will record their compositions using graphical notation to represent musical elements. They will then have the opportunity to perform and evaluate their compositions.