

Friday 15th January 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Hello and a very happy new year to you all! I hope you all had a great Christmas and a chance to have a good rest. On behalf of all the staff in Year 5, I would like to thank you for your Christmas gifts! These were a lovely surprise and very much appreciated- thank you!

I am extremely pleased to say that Mrs Senyk will now be working with us up in Year 5, offering us an extra pair of hands in the mornings. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her into our classroom.

We have a busy term coming up and I hope that this newsletter will answer any questions that you have. As always though, if you have any unanswered questions or would like to speak to me about anything (however small), feel free to grab me at the end of the day or alternatively, make an appointment through the office.

Autumn Term Curriculum

Literacy – Our text for the first half term is “Skellig” by David Almond. This is a wonderful fantasy story where a small boy finds a strange being hidden in the garage of his new house. We have already had fun trying to predict what kind of creature he really is and we can’t wait to find out! We will be using this text as a stimulus to write our own chapter, a setting description, a character analysis and a non-chronological report on the creature.

Numeracy – We will begin the term by recapping our knowledge of place value (including digits beyond the decimal point) and revisiting Roman Numerals. We will then move on to working with fractions where we will focus on comparing and ordering fractions with the same denominator, converting between mixed and improper fractions and learning that fractions have decimal equivalents. This will then lead on to new learning about percentages. Work on shape will be incorporated throughout the term.

Science –Our first topic this term is Forces where the children will have lots of opportunities to design and carry out practical investigations, looking at the effects of many forces including air resistance, water resistance, friction and gravity. After the half term break, we will then move on to studying living things and their habitats. This will involve looking at the life cycles of animals and the process of reproduction in plants and some animals.

RE – The first two weeks of term will focus on Christmas. Then, we will move on to look at Baptism and the Parables and sayings of Jesus before half term. After half term, we will learn about Lent and then will we have a week of activities for Holy Week before the Easter break.

PE –This term our lessons will still take place on a Tuesday (gymnastics) and a Friday (Gaelic football). Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on these days and ensure that they also have outdoor clothing (tracksuit/trainers). Earrings are not permitted to be worn on PE days.

Year 5 Expectations

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the expectations for Year 5 this year and stress that these should be adhered to throughout the whole year.

Homework

Your child will receive their homework on a Friday each week and this should be completed and returned to school by the following Wednesday. They will have at least two pieces of homework each week (normally Literacy and Numeracy) and these will build on and extend the knowledge and skills that we have been learning in class.

Reading

In addition to their weekly homework, your child should also be reading at home on a (almost) daily basis. The expectation for Year 5 is that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes 5 times a week (at least one of these times should be with an adult). They have been provided with a reading record which should be completed daily, detailing what they are reading and with whom. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading and that you sign their record each week to confirm that what is recorded is a true record (even if it says that they have not read anything!) Please ensure that this reading record is brought into school each Monday so that it can be checked by a member of staff.

Spelling

Your child will be given 12 spellings each week which they are expected to practise at home. They will receive their spellings on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday. It is important that their spelling books are in school with them at all times as they will also have opportunities to practise their spellings during school hours.

Dates for the Diary

[11th February](#) at 9.15 AM: Year 5 class assembly (to celebrate Valentine's Day). All parents/carers welcome.

[7-9th March](#): Alton Castle. All children should have received a letter detailing our residential trip this year. The deposit of £15.00 should be paid by 29th January to secure your place and the remaining balance of £88.00 needs to be paid by 26th February.

[17th March](#): St Patrick's Day Coffee Morning. Year 5 will be organising and running this fabulous annual event. All parents/carers welcome. More details to follow.

A message from Miss Frearson

We have had a brilliant first term in Year 5. The children have worked exceedingly hard, made lots of progress and have had loads of fun along the way! I am thoroughly looking forward to the upcoming term and cannot wait to get started!

Kind Regards,

L. Frearson, H. Quinn, J. McGinn, N. Senyk