

6 January 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

Welcome to the first half term of 2015! After a fantastic start to life in Year 5, this should be the term when things really start to click into place, and lots of progress is made. I am sure that the children will continue to work hard in the coming months and produce even more examples of quality work.

Topics for Spring 1

English: Non fiction; instructions. Narrative; descriptive writing and special effects. Reading; *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Phillip Pullman.

Science: The Earth and Space; The Solar System; Planets; The Sun and Moon

Geography: Rivers

History: Continues in-depth study of significant historical events of the 17th Century (*The Gunpowder Plot*; *The Great Plague*; *The Great Fire of London*)

Maths: Multiplication and Division; fractions; calculating area

Art: Pencil and paint skills

PE kits

Please note that the children should have an **indoor** and an **outdoor** PE kit in school at all times. Your child's indoor kits should be kept in a clearly labelled, pull string bag in the classroom and should only hold a pair of shorts and a T-shirt. Their outdoor kit is to be kept in your child's locker and it should contain a pair of trainers or plastic studded boots (the type made for AstroTurf are perfect as they are suitable for both field and playground use), a warm pair of tracksuit bottoms and a warm hoodie or jumper. In order for your child to take part in PE lessons, it is essential that they have both PE kits in school at all times. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. PE this half-term will be dance, though I hope to get outside for an extra session of PE whenever possible.

Home reading books and spellings

Please encourage your child to choose books that are challenging but enjoyable from within the appropriate colour band - and support them at home, so that they can change their book regularly. Reading for 20 minutes a night really is the single most effective thing that you can do with your child to aid their progress and development in school.

Spellings will continue to be sent home on a Friday, and your child will be assessed a week later. Whenever possible we will try to link the spelling lists to the topics and spelling rules being studied in class. Additional homework (usually quizzes and mini tests) will also be sent home regularly.

As always, if there is any aspect of your child's development or learning that you would like to speak to me about please don't hesitate to make an appointment or to catch me at the door if you have any quick queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr Lomas