

Emerald Class

Spring Term Newsletter 2020

Happy New Year! Year Five is whizzing by, which is a shame because the class are so enjoyable to teach. Having taught the class before, I know that they've changed so much over the years and I strongly feel that they know *exactly* how to channel their enthusiasm and put it to excellent use. It's a special time when you have a class that is positively brimming with creative and exciting ideas...never a dull moment!

Reading

Wow! I am having to do so little to encourage them to keep up with their reading. So many of us are reading at least two novels per half term.

We're reading a book called *Cosmic* by Frank Cotterell-Boyce at the moment. If the children happen to have been given a book voucher as a present, or have other means with which to buy the book, it's a great one to own. It has excellent appeal to adults too, plenty of jokes for you much like the hidden jokes in children's films!

P.E. Days

P.E. lessons during the first half term will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

Mathematics

Keep practising times tables via Times Table Rockstars. The children also found a similar game via Purple Mash which can be adapted to give the children specific times tables and more time to calculate; I know a few children find the time pressure of Times Table Rockstars a bit stressful.

Times tables knowledge is vital in Year Five and Six as the curriculum takes it as a given that the children know *all* their times tables when facing new concepts such as percentages, decimals and written methods for multiplying and dividing larger numbers.

Many children have fallen behind with their MyMaths homework so please check how your child is getting on. It's ok to help them if they're getting stuck.

OUR TOPIC, 1st HALF-TERM *STAR GAZERS*

Our topic this half-term will continue to be space themed but with a greater focus on space travel. Andrew Cook, who is a TfL engineer, will be helping us to create motorised space buggies. During science, we will now be focusing on forces in action (gravity, friction, wind resistance etc).

OUR TOPIC, 2nd HALF-TERM

Off With Her Head!

After half-term we will be returning to a history focus, when we study the Tudor period.

RESOURCES APPEAL

1. We continue to need plenty of cardboard for our marble runs. As long as the cardboard can be cut with children's scissors, we'll take it!
2. I'd really like to create plaster of Paris reliefs with the children but we don't currently have enough boxes to do this with. Boxes with bases no bigger than an A5 sized piece of paper are perfect. Plastic food trays are also good, such as the trays that cherry tomatoes come in.

Please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm happy to talk to you about your child's progress anytime; we don't have to wait until parents' evening. Our open classroom day is Tuesday. It's a good chance to come in and look at your child's books.

Thank-you for your support and understanding over the year so far.

Miss. Eglinton