**Class 5 Autumn 2 Term Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! Class 5 have had a super busy first half term – I don’t doubt that Autumn 2 will be just as busy. It is fair to say that I am very pleased with how the year is going so far and I hope that your child is enjoying Class 5 as much as I am teaching them! Our new theme this half-term is Extreme Earth and so this will be what much of our learning throughout the curriculum will be centred around.

As usual, the aim of this newsletter is to give you an insight into what we will be learning about this term in each curriculum area. If require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to message me on Yammer or alternatively email me at awhittaker@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk.

I am always very happy to help. 😊

**Key dates (specifically for Class 5):**

* Tuesday 22nd November – **Sherwood Pines** (WWI-themed day).

Children will require a packed lunch and water bottle. We kindly request that lunches are free from nuts. For the day, please can children wear their PE kit and wrap up warm.

* Monday 28th November – **Carlton Academy** (We Will Rock You).

We are now leaving school at approximately 9.30am and returning at approximately 12pm.

* Monday 28th November 3.50pm-7.00pm – **Parents Evening**.
* Tuesday 29th November 3.50pm-6.00pm – **Parents Evening**.
* Wednesday 7th December – **Mansfield Palace Theatre** (Peter Pan pantomime).

We will be leaving at approximately 1pm and arriving back to school at approximately 5.30pm – if there are any delays we will keep in contact via Yammer.

* Thursday 8th December 3.40pm – **Carol Concert**.

Please see Mr Mac’s Yammer post for more details.

* Thursday 15th December 9.30am – **Christmas Performance**.
* Friday 16th December 9.30am and 2.00pm – **Christmas Performance**.

Details regarding tickets will be released soon. Keep your eyes peeled!

There are lots of other whole school events going on so please keep your eye on Yammer.

**General information:**

Please ensure that your child brings water in a labelled drinking bottle and that they have a healthy snack for morning break and/or afternoon break. If they bring it in a snack pot, please ensure these are named. No crisps, chocolate, sweets or snacks containing nuts!

Please ensure your child comes into school with an appropriate number of layers on as the classrooms are becoming chilly due to opening the external doors as the children enter and leave the classroom. It is therefore important to ensure all items of clothing - especially jumpers, cardigans and coats - are named.

Each Friday the children will be given a new list of ten spellings which they need to spend the week practicing ahead of their test on the following Friday.

On Yammer, I have posted a grid full of different homework activities which are related to our learning this half-term. The children can choose their homework tasks from the grid and complete it over the next 3 weeks. I will be asking them to bring their completed work into school on Monday 12th December 2022. The children will have the opportunity to showcase their work to the rest of the class on the following week (w/c 19th December 2022). As usual, activities in GREY must be completed each week. The children can then choose at least 2 other activities to complete over the course of the half-term.

We are continuing our swimming lessons every Wednesday afternoon at Southwell Leisure Centre. Children should wear their school tracksuit and polo shirt to school this day to make changing easier. Please follow the guidance regarding goggles, earrings and swimwear carefully. It is advisable, as the weather worsens, that children wear a form fleece or coat as they feel the cold more with damp hair.

This half term PE sessions continue to be on a Thursday and Friday. These will be delivered by our specialised PE coaches. Please could ensure children are wearing the correct PE uniform. Children with long hair bring bobbles, or preferably, have their hair tied back on these days. With earrings, if the children cannot remove them for themselves, could they kindly not wear them on PE days. If this is not possible, please could you send in tape/plasters for the children to wear over the earrings for the session.

**Our topic for Autumn 2 is ‘Extreme Earth’.**

**English:** We will be focusing our writing and comprehension work around one key text this half term: Shackleton’s Journey by William Grill – a unique visual re-telling Ernest Shackleton's landmark expedition crossing the Antarctic from one pole to the other. We will be using this text as a focus for various reading and writing opportunities. Children will have the chance to write for a range of purposes and in a variety of styles. We will also have discreet grammar and punctuation lessons.

**Spellings:** Every Friday the children will be given a new list of ten spellings. These will be differentiated according to the children’s learning needs – your child will know which group they are in. Please spend time practicing these as the children will be tested on them the following Friday. Spelling lists will be uploaded onto Yammer.

**Reading:** The children should all now have a reading book that is matched to their book band. It is expected that the children do at least three reads per week with an adult. I understand that by this age your child may be able to read independently but there is a massive benefit from reading with adults, so I encourage this as much as possible. You could ask them questions about the characters’ feelings and actions and why they are doing things; you could tell them what words and phrases mean and even ask them to predict what might happen next! These are the kind of skills which the children need for comprehension tasks and assessments. Each time you read with your child at home, please write the details on the right side of the double page spread. If staff are reading with them, this will be done on the left side. If a parent reader volunteer reads with your child in class, we'll ask them to write and sign on the right - the same side as you - so that it classes as a parent read (this will count towards the total number of reads). If they read three times a week, there will be rewards on offer for them throughout the year so watch this space! I will be checking the three reads on a Friday.

**Maths:** For Maths we will be following the White Rose Maths scheme. Key mathematical concepts covered this half-term include multiplication and division and fractions. Children will also be given plenty of opportunities to develop their mathematical reasoning skills.

Across the year, we will continue practicing our times tables to ensure that children know the multiplication and corresponding division facts up to 12x12 fluently. Times Table Rock Stars is a fantastic website which children can use to practice their times tables through fun games and challenges! Your child’s password is stuck inside of their reading diary.

**Geography:** We will be learning about natural disasters. Within this unit we will be learning about how and why these natural phenomena occur and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.

**Science:** In Science this half term we will be learning about the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals and the differences in the life cycles of plants, mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.

**Art and Design:** Within our Design and Technology lessons I am going to be giving the children the task to make a pizza. Within this unit we will be focusing on developing cooking, evaluation and planning skills.

**Computing:** In computing we are continuing to learn how to code. We will be using the Purple Mash app for this.

**RE:** This term Class 5’s RE theme is ‘Was Jesus the Messiah?’ A key part of RE will be giving children the chance to reflect, pose and answer interesting and thoughtful questions. We will explore some Bible stories and consider how these can be applied to our own lives.

**PSHE:** This half term we will be considering how the media influences choices that can be made which affect our physical health and wellbeing.

I hope that this letter has been informative and gives you an overview of what we are planning to do during this half of autumn term. Keep an eye out for further information on the whole school newsletters but please let me know if you have any further questions and I will be more than happy to help.

Kind regards,

Miss Whittaker