



Class 5 Spring 1 Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely time celebrating Christmas and the New Year. I think it is fair to say that last term was super busy, so I hope that the children have had a good rest and are now all ready and raring to return to school! Our new theme this half-term is 'Harry Potter' 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. 😊

General information:

On Thursday 9th February, we will be heading to Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio in London. More information regarding this will be made available over the next couple of weeks. Please can I politely remind you that **payment for this is due**.

Could I also please take this opportunity to politely remind you that the interim deposit payment for the PGL residential is also due.

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 6th February. 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 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 Spring 1 is 'Harry Potter'.

English: We will be focusing our writing and comprehension work around one key text this half term: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling. 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 such as to persuade and inform. 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). I will be checking the three reads on a Friday. Can your child reach 100, 200 or even 300 reads before the end of the year?

In order to support children's progress in reading, it would be super beneficial if we had some reading volunteers. If you could spare any time at all to come into school and listen to some children read, please let me know.

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: Within our Geography unit we will be studying a range of maps and atlases, including digital maps, and compare their features. We will also be learning how to use eight compass points to give directions and give grid references to locate places on a map.

Art and Design: Within our Design and Technology lessons, the children will research, analyse, design, make and evaluate a funky Harry Potter themed cushion cover, using their developing knowledge of and skills in a variety of sewing techniques for joining and decorating fabric.

Computing: In computing we are looking at spreadsheets. We will be using the Purple Mash app for this.

RE: This term Class 5's RE theme is 'Beliefs and Questions' and will be centred around answering the question 'How do people's beliefs about God, the world and others have impact on their lives?' A key part of RE will be giving children the chance to reflect, pose and answer interesting and thoughtful questions.

PSHE: This half term we will be covering a unit called 'Family and relationships'.

French: We will be learning the French words for different sports and fitness.

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