

September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the Year 5 team! We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer. This letter is to keep you informed about some of the work the children will be doing during the autumn term.

### **Theme - DISASTER!**

This term our topic is 'DISASTER'. Within this theme, the children will be learning about how, why and where disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes occur. This is a 'STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths' based theme and will offer the children plenty of opportunities to learn about natural and man-made phenomena. In science, the children will be learning more about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes and earthquakes occur. This will link with geography where they will become more confident to use atlases and maps to locate countries and geographical features. One historical event we will focus on is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and how it affected the people in Pompeii and Herculaneum. Another part of theme learning will include the opportunity to design and make structures to withstand earthquakes and other disasters. Moving on to looking at man-made disasters, the children will explore ways in which British society can become more sustainable through clean energy sources and reducing, reusing and recycling the waste that we produce. The children will also research how designers use recycled materials to create clothing and household items. If you have any particular experiences or knowledge relating to our disaster theme that you feel would benefit the children's learning, please speak to one of the Year 5/6 team!



### **English**

During this term the children will continue to engage with a range of fantastic narrative and non-narrative texts. They will develop their reading skills, beginning to infer and deduce answers to questions about what they have read in greater depth. In their narrative work, children will be focusing in particular on a contemporary fiction book called *Escape from Pompeii* and interpreting work about the poem *Moon Juice* by Kate Wakeling. Their non-narrative pieces of work will include information guides on how to stay safe during an earthquake and an explanation of how volcanoes erupt and how earthquakes may occur linking to our theme. The children will start to write at greater length with increasing accuracy and appropriate detail across a variety of genres. Their understanding of grammar and punctuation will develop as they build on their work from previous years.



### **Mathematics**

In maths we will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and then solving word problems. Whilst looking at place value, we will learn how to read, represent and compare numbers to 1 000 000, as well as rounding them to the nearest 100, 1 000, 10 000 and 100 000 using number lines. We will then be consolidating and refining our addition and subtraction skills, including using formal written methods.

Within multiplication, we will slowly build towards being able to multiply a two-digit number by a three-digit number. Division will be focused on dividing by a one-digit number, using number bonds, as well as long and short division.



### **Science**

This term in Year 5 Science, children will be covering the following physics units:



#### **Feel the Force**

During this unit children will learn to explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object. They will also identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces. Additionally children will also recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have greater effect.

#### **Get Sorted**

This unit challenges the children to group and sort selections of materials, questioning and refining their concepts of the properties of solids and liquids. It involves creating and implementing comparative tests of different materials, and extending their knowledge of fair testing. They will learn to use more specific vocabulary to describe their observations.

The majority of the children's science work will be practical and children will be encouraged to make predictions and link their observations to their scientific knowledge. They will begin to develop appropriate ways to systematically record their work, as well as presenting their work creatively.

### Religious Education - RE

In R.E. children will start by learning about the symbols and artefacts of the Sikh faith and the values held by those who follow it. They will learn about how Sikhs express their beliefs and how it forms part of their daily lives. The children will explore the meaning of 'commitment'. Moving towards Christmas, the children will look at the Christian perspective and the meanings that Christians attach to the events that took place at the first Christmas.



### Physical Education - PE

This term, activities will include hockey, athletics and basketball, which will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**. To ensure that the children always have their kit for lessons, we suggest that they bring their appropriate kit to school on a Monday and take it home to be washed on a Friday. Can we remind you that children are required to wear a white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts, or a track suit. Tights are not suitable for PE, please ensure that children have an extra pair of socks in their PE bag. Earrings must be taken out or covered, and as in school, long hair must be tied back. Children must have a change of clothes for PE, and not wear the clothes they wear during the day. If the weather is cold, they will also need appropriate footwear which must be different from the shoes that they wear for the remainder of the day. When playing rugby on the school field, children are allowed to wear football boots. Please support this vital area of the curriculum by helping children to bring the correct changes of clothes to school for these sessions.



### Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

Our Jigsaw themes this term are 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'. Children will be thinking about their personal identity and their roles in and outside of school. They will also consider British values and look at how people are all unique.

### Modern Foreign Languages - MFL

This term in MFL, the children will be continuing to learn Spanish, extending their use of numbers up to 100. They will be learning to describe their family and friends and building sentences into short conversations.



### Homework

In Year 5 children are continuing with the Read Write Inc. **spelling** programme three times a week and will have words to 'log and learn' in their reading diaries from these sessions. Any spellings that are noted from their written work throughout the week will also be written in their reading diaries. Additionally, we are learning ten spellings a week from the national curriculum spelling lists. Children must practice these in order to be able to spell and put these into sentences appropriately.



Children are also expected to be **reading** to an adult at least 3 times a week, and changing their books regularly, varying between home reading books and school library books to encourage a wider range of texts being read, whilst promoting a love of reading. Please log any reading in the reading diary, and encourage your child to note any independent reading they do too.

It is important that the children can write legibly and fluently at speed to enable them to get their ideas down on paper. Extra practice at home to ensure your child's handwriting is cursive, meaning that all letters are joined, and consistent in size and neatness, would be beneficial. As the term progresses, short English questions may be set for homework which will be expected to be completed and returned within the reasonable timeframe given.

In maths, taking any opportunities to ensure that your child knows their times tables up to 12 x 12 fluently would support their learning. Children will also be set weekly activities on **Mathletics**. Additional homework will be sent home as and when we feel it is necessary.

Please take advantage of the online learning platforms that the children have personal log-in information for in the front of their reading diaries:

Mathletics: <http://www.mathletics.co.uk>

Purple Mash: <https://www.purplemash.com/login>

Espresso: <https://online.espresso.co.uk/espresso/login>

Education City: <http://www.educationcity.com>

Our POWER Project this term is 'Disasters Destruction' for which children must complete 5 points worth of activities minimum, but they are more than welcome to do more as they explore our theme further. This is to be returned to school by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Many thanks for your support,

*Mrs Jahan and Mrs Gangani*

**Year 5 Team**