

Dear children, parents and carers,

Welcome back! I really hope you all had a joyful Christmas with relaxing start to the New Year and are well rested ready for the new term.

Our learning journey up until Easter will see us reading *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo as our core class text. We will be using it to write for a range of purposes including newspapers, letters, character descriptions and our own myths and legends. At sentence level work we will continue to explore parenthesis, modal verbs, inverted commas, standard and non-standard English, tenses and cohesion across paragraphs. In maths, our core focus will be on fractions, multiplication and division (formal written methods), decimals and percentages, area and perimeter and statistics.

Our Geography will see us exploring North and South America with a focus on Brazil and History will take us to Anglo Saxon and Viking Britain!

Mr Tanner will be teaching Class 5's PE on Monday afternoons so please ensure your child comes to school in PE kit (navy blue shorts/skorts, joggers and house colour top only please).

This term our value is 'Courage' and after the February half term 'Forgiveness'. Worship time in school will focus on this.

Home Learning

Homework this year will focus on reading and maths. Homework will go out in homework books on a **Wednesday** and will be due in on the **following Tuesday**. The first homework of the term will go out on **Wednesday 10th January**.

Time tables

Children are encouraged to use TTRS for practicing their times tables every day where possible for 5 minutes. Garage is useful to test children on times tables the algorithm has deemed need practice. Regular practice keeps speed and retention of answers quick and gives children a strong basis to use in their maths lessons. Log ins will remain the same as last year but if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Reading

Our expectation is that children read each day for at least 15-20 minutes. Children can read independently or to an adult daily. We expect every child to record their daily reading, even if it's just a short note, so that we can keep track of their progress. Please support your child by reminding them to complete this task each day - thank you.

Spellings

Spellings will work a little differently this year. The children will continue to practise spelling rules in school and build them into their writing (as per the overview and in line with the National Curriculum) but will not bring home spellings to practise for weekly tests as they did previously. We are looking to try and apply their spelling into their free writing rather than just through set weekly tests and really focus on the rules. There will be spelling tests in school based on these rules but they will not be set weekly and we will analyse the rules they need to work on. You can still support with this at home as the children still have access to Spelling Shed via <https://play.spellingshed.com>. It would be great for the children to continue to use this platform to familiarise and consolidate Year 5/6 spellings and rules as they will use these in class during the year.

General Reminders

PE has now moved to Monday afternoons until Easter.

Forest School sessions:

Wednesday 10th January Tuesday 6th February and Wednesday 6th March

Please add these dates to your calendar so your child remembers their kit! ☺

Thank you again for all your support and here's to a brilliant 2024

Miss Thomas