



14th April 2021

Dear Year 5 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to our final term in Year 5! I hope you are safe and well and had a lovely Easter break.

Our topic for this term is, 'Exploration and Endeavour', learning about Earth and Space, with a focus on Antarctica and our Solar System. Whenever possible, this topic will be covered through cross curricular teaching and learning – linking subjects together to ensure a wholesome experience for the children.

In **English** we will be writing diaries and letters, inspired by the expeditions of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton. We will also be writing non-chronological reports about animals in the Antarctic and adventure narratives set in space. As always, we will be working on improving our grammar, punctuation, handwriting and spelling and having reading lessons daily.

Please ensure your child is still **reading daily at home**. Reading is extremely important so if you do not have books at home, please contact me. I will continue to uphold my pledge I made to the children to read to them for ten minutes in school every day and I expect the children to continue to do the same at home.

In **Maths** we will be working on fractions, decimals and percentages. For these topics, and to ensure your child is ready for Year 6, it is vital that your child has a good knowledge of times tables. Please, therefore, **ensure that your child is still practising their times tables and division facts at home** as well. We will also be using all four operations in weekly arithmetic tasks and will be improving our problem solving skills by completing investigations and challenges.

In **Science**, we will be learning about the changes as humans develop to old age. This will link to our SRE work on puberty. We will also learn about forces and earth and space. We will continue to work on our scientific skills by completing different types of investigations.

Geography is our main topic focus this term and we will be working hard to improve our geographical skills, while focusing on Antarctica. We will work on and develop our atlas and map skills by completing geographical fieldwork and will learn about the significance of latitude and longitude, the northern and southern hemispheres and time zones. We will learn more about human and physical geography, focusing on mountains, glaciers and ice shelves and settlements and land use in Antarctica.

For **history**, we will learn about the famous expeditions of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton and famous space explorers including Katherine Johnson.

In **Art and D.T.**, we will be improving our mastery of techniques using a variety of media. This will include studying artists who have depicted journeys and planets in their work and designing, making and evaluating a space craft.

In **Computing**, we will be using laptops and iPads to help us research our topic and present our learning in different ways and use *Espresso coding* to use sequence, selection and repetition in programs.

In **P.S.H.E.** we will be having a weekly 'Breathe' session. This is a four week programme to help us learn about and focus on our mental health and mindfulness. This will be delivered by the Camden Mental Health team and a letter about this will be sent out separately. We will also be thinking about responsibility and preparing for transition to Year 6.

We will also have a focus on SRE this term, learning about puberty and the changes that humans go through. A separate letter about this will be sent out with more detail.

Year 5 will continue to have **P.E.** sessions on **Tuesday** afternoons with Coach Charlie and **Wednesdays** with me. It is vital that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear to school on these days so that your child can join in as fully as possible. Physical activity is extremely important and P.E. lessons ensure that your child is getting 45 minutes of the 60 minutes of physical activity your child should be completing every day. They should be wearing no jewellery and long hair must be tied back as the children will not be changing for these lessons.

Year 5 will continue to have **French** lessons with Chloe on Fridays.

Our **music** brass sessions will continue to be held on Tuesday mornings with Simon and Ed. Please ensure your child has their instrument in school with them on this day and please encourage them to carry on practising at home!

Home Learning

As usual, your child will receive their homework on a **Friday**, allowing your child to share with you some of his/her school learning. Please ensure that your child completes all of the work set and tries their best to ensure that their homework is of a good standard. Homework will continue to be set online via Google Classroom. Photographs of work and work completed on the computer can be handed in online. **Homework must be completed and handed in by the following Thursday.**

Visits and workshops this term:

Because of the current situation, visits will be arranged and confirmed as soon as possible. We will be continuing to visit Hampstead Heath as regularly as possible to carry out geography field work, science investigations and some P.E. lessons too! We also have some virtual workshops arranged, including an Art in Space workshop for Summer term 2.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Ryan