

January 2024

Spring Term: Year 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a lovely break. The children have come back to school with lots of energy and enthusiasm for their learning.

Key Dates

26th Jan – Topic Day (Series of engaging activities in school to support learning about Africa)

15th March – Class Assembly

19th March – Visit to the Horniman Museum

27th March – Start *Into University* Experience with a half day workshop

English

We will begin the term learning about the language and characters in the classic story: **The Phoenix and the Carpet** by E Nesbit. We will then be writing our own information reports on Africa and ending the first half-term with performance poetry.

At the beginning of next half-term we will be reading and responding to the book **Journey to Jo'Burg** by Beverley Naidoo. We will be using this as the basis to write biographies of significant Africans e.g. Nelson Mandela, and doing some creative writing containing flashbacks.



Maths

This term, we will be working on our multiplication and division (short multiplication, long multiplication and division with remainders), multiplying fractions, calculating the perimeter and area of compound shapes, as well as beginning to understand how fractions, decimals, and percentages link together.

History and Geography

Our topic for this term is **Africa**. In this topic, we will look at the geography, climate and culture of the different countries that form Africa. We begin the term looking at the rivers, mountain ranges and coastlines which make up the continent before doing some closer studies of historical periods (The kingdom of Benin, Apartheid) and specific countries. Please contact me if you have knowledge, objects or skills which could support our learning about Africa.

P.E.

Our P.E. sessions continue to be on **Monday** and **Thursday** and our **dance** session is on a **Wednesday** afternoon.

Science

In Science, we will be studying **Properties and Changes in Materials**. This means we will be comparing everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity and response to magnets. We will also be learning about the concepts of solubility, irreversibility and permeability.

Home Learning

Each week the children will be set their Maths and English home learning on Friday (beginning this week) which will be due the following Thursday. This will be available on Google Classroom.

Maths home learning will generally be IXL starred tasks linked to their classroom learning. Please ensure the children either complete the task, or do 30 minutes of practice. If they do not seem to be able to tackle the questions, encourage them to talk to us in school. We will be able to help.

English homework will alternate between tasks linked to work in school and reading journal tasks.

Reading

Please ensure that they are doing **around 20 minutes reading an evening**. Many children will choose to do more than this and it would be great if this is encouraged at home. We will continue to promote reading at school through our daily 30-minute lessons as well as during our Reading for Pleasure time.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions about your child's learning, development or wellbeing. I am available at the end of the day and via e-mail at connorbrown@wtwschool.co.uk.

We are sure it will be a fantastic 2024!

Connor, Nic and Cino.