

**Year 5 – Autumn 2 Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you and your family have had a pleasant week from – even if the weather hasn’t always been in our favour. Here is an outline of what we will be focusing on this half term.

Our core focus this half term is our History topic of Ancient Greece. I know many of the class have already expressed enthusiasm for this subject, and enjoyed learning about Ancient Rome last year. As much of Ancient Rome was founded from Greek principles, children will get to learn what was so special about Ancient Greece and why it came to dominate the Mediterranean region 2,500 years ago.

In English, linked to this topic, we are going to focus on one of the classic mythological stories of that time: Theseus and the Minotaur – writing a diary entry as if they are Theseus. Later in the term we will be revisiting a different time period - the Anglo Saxons - looking at Michael Morpurgo’s take on the classic myth Beowulf.

In Maths we will be mainly focusing on all 4 operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, before focusing on area, perimeter and statistics.

Although our Science topic this half term is a physics focus where children investigate the properties of materials, we are also fortunate to have special guest astronomers visiting from Nottingham University who will be enriching last term’s learning on the Solar System.

In PE we shall continue swimming. The levels of water confidence that I have seen across the whole class is brilliant and the progress made has been incredible.

In Art, we shall be working on painting and mixed media – with a specific focus on self-portraits. As our first art topic of the year, I am really excited to see the class expressing themselves.

Our Computing focus is on programming using Scratch, and in French we shall be focusing further on the basics, whilst in Personal Development (previously PSHE) we shall be celebrating differences – which is linked perfectly to our Diversity Day on 4th November.

As a reminder, I am normally available at the start/end of the day, but sometimes it’s easier to send a quick message on Dojo. It also means that you can message me as you think about it, rather than wait until the next morning/ end of the day.

Finally, I’d like to remind everyone of our expectations that children should be reading 5 times per week (minimum). With our trip to Wollaton library, visits to our school library, our school reading book, the book-based focus in English and children’s own banded reading books, I hope you can see how we place the upmost emphasis on reading for pleasure. This is because there is nothing more beneficial that a child can be doing at home than reading – please support this.

Best Wishes

Carl Bown

Year 5 Teacher