

**Spring Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and all the best for 2020. I hope that you have all enjoyed the long Christmas break.

Primarily, I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of children reading for at least **20 minutes** every evening and recording this in their Home-School diaries. Reading is an essential part of children’s development and learning which has positive effects on their writing. Children are praised and rewarded every Monday during assembly for reading 5 or more times a week. **Please encourage and monitor that your child is reading daily.**

In English, we are studying ‘Holes’ by Louis Sacher which is a short novel. It is about a boy called Stanley Yelnats, who has bad luck due to a curse placed on his great- great-grandfather, he is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit. Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day. We will be doing an immense amount of work based around this book whilst developing our spelling and grammar skills. Our writing will be focussed on diary entries, narratives and persuasive leaflets. Reciprocal Reading is also be a vital part to our English lessons as we will continue to use the VIPERS (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and summarise) to help improve our comprehension skills.

In Maths, we will be covering Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Geometry. A large part of our daily maths work is Mental Maths. We have allocated a **daily 20 minute** session to enhance its fluency. Please encourage children to use **TT Rock Stars** at home to ensure their rapid recall.

In Geography, we will be learning all about the changes to the world as a result of human impact such as rainforest destruction and global warming. In Science, we will be travelling out of space and learning all about our eight planets. We will be exploring day and night, seasons and movement of the moon. In Art, we will be sketching and drawing Rainforests based on Oenone Hammersley artwork and in DT we will be designing and making a Solar System. In computing, we will be following a digital literacy and citizenship program on internet safety. In RE, we will looking at the ‘power of beliefs’ and lastly, in PE, we will be learning the skills needed to play Tennis.

Homework consists of weekly spellings, weekly maths and TT Rock Stars. Children will also have a creative project to complete in Science which will be due in by the end of the Spring Term.

As a final note, PE will now be taking place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that children’s PE kits are in school for these sessions. As a reminder, the school opens its doors at **8:50** in the morning for children to enter the building. Please be **prompt** as children miss valuable learning time when they arrive late. **Lesson begin at 9:00**.

Kindest regards,

*Miss Piponides*

Year 5 Teacher & SENDCo