



Year 5 – Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope it has been a relaxing one for you and your families. It might come as a shock to realise that next year (September '24) your child will be in secondary school! I think it helps to remember this and use their time left here at Firbeck to ensure that they are in school and focused on learning as much as possible in preparation for that transition.

Below is an overview of what we have to look forward to this half term:

We continue with another history focus this half term, with a very timely look at the rise and fall of the Benin Empire: a culturally rich and technologically advanced African civilisation which ended in 1897 and for nearly 1,000 years. Never heard of it? We'll also be exploring more about why that was too.

In **English**, we will be starting with **poetry** – looking at haikus, narrative poems, free verse and even recording our own slam poems! We shall also explore **setting descriptions** – using the book *Journey to Jo'burg* as our inspiration. The aim is trying to slow down our writing to really focus on the detail.

In Maths will be mainly focusing on factors, multiples, area and perimeter, so **knowledge times tables is key.**

We will also continue to look at the properties of materials in Science, before them progressing to understand forces.

PE will be on Mondays and Fridays – with our sports coach Mr Strong supporting some of these lessons. We're starting with tag rugby, which will be replaced by gymnastics later in the term. Trainers and plain coloured, outdoor clothing (e.g. joggers & hoodies) will be needed.

In DT, we shall be working on bridges – understanding how they are designed and eventually making our own by applying the knowledge and skills the children have learned.

In Computing, we will continue with developing programming skills using Scratch.

In French we shall be practising words and phrases linked to family and friends.

In PD (previously PSHE), we shall be exploring dreams and goals, which fits in well with both our poetry lessons, and my earlier point around starting secondary school in the not too distant future.

Please continue to use Class Dojo if you need to contact me. I will use this as the main means for passing information and reminders on about clubs, trips and day-to-day school activities.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that **reading is the primary source of homework** – all research and evidence shows that there is truly nothing better that your child could practise. **5 times per week is the minimum** and I expect children to bring in their reading diaries each Friday, so this can be monitored.

Best wishes,

Carl Bown

Year 5 Teacher