

Class 5 Term 5 Newsletter

April 2017

Dear families,

After a very welcome, long Easter break, Team 5 are looking forward to another busy and exciting term in Class 5! Underpinning the learning will be our fantastic new topic: Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Topic: History-based, the children will be immersing themselves in 10,000 years of ancient history. Their understanding of the Stone Age will be greatly enhanced by a whole class book-study of 'The Boy with the Golden Axe' by Kathleen Fidler. This book is based on events at the Neolithic settlement at Skara Brae. Thinking like archaeologists, the children will devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity, difference and significance. They will further generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, drama, art and creating prototypes. They will also investigate the importance of the Neolithic revolution and the change from hunter-gatherers to farmers. Finally, The children will be creating their own 'archaeological dig' and writing a report based on their excavations as well as participating in a wild Stone-Age day at Everdon woods to develop their prehistoric skills!

English: A film narrative unit will be the focus of English lessons this term. The children will be studying 'The Piano' and developing their visual literacy through analysing camera angles, shots and the reasons behind the film-maker's choices. Mood, atmosphere and character studies will be developed and drama will be used to further enhance their understanding, questioning skills and writing. Ultimately the children will create and write their own video clips of 'The Piano'.

SPaG: Sentence of the week will continue to embed key spelling, punctuation and grammar skills, with a focus on the National Curriculum statutory requirements for English, permeating through the whole curriculum.

Handwriting: The children will be introduced to our new Kinetic Letters handwriting scheme this term which will really help their presentation and fluency skills. They will receive daily short sharp bursts of handwriting teaching and practice which has proved to have amazing results.

Art and DT: Topic-based art will include some cave painting on rocks and in DT the children will be designing and making their own Iron-Age torcs, tunics and belts. Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Mesolithic homes will be studied too resulting in the children designing and building models of the Skara Brae settlement. The children will also be practising their own farming skills whilst cultivating a vegetable patch this term.

Maths: Starting with revising and building on their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages, the children will then move onto area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes and solving area and perimeter problems. They will be using place value to help them divide mentally. 2D and 3D shape will be covered with sorting activities using Venn and Carroll diagrams and also some reflection and angle-measuring work. Then they will be using factors and prime numbers, as well as squaring and cubing. Finally, the children will be practising and refining their mathematical reasoning skills along with developing their fluency with the four operations. Times tables will still be a huge focus and tested weekly on Fridays.

Science: Properties and changes of materials is the science focus this term. The children will be comparing, sorting and classifying materials according to their properties. Working scientifically and collaboratively, they will use a hands-on way to explore dissolving and to identify the different variables in their own investigations. They will also experiment with separating, filtering, sieving and evaporating, finishing with learning about irreversible changes.

RE: The new topic is Sikhism. **Music** will continue to be taught on Tuesday afternoons and **French** on Wednesday mornings. The **PE** focus this term is football; please ensure that your child has appropriate PE kit in school at all times.

Homework: set on Friday for the following Wednesday. Please make an appointment with the office to come and see me if there are any further questions.

Here's to another great term: Term 5!

Kind regards from Mrs Bastin, Mrs Baker and Mrs Anderson.