

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a peaceful Christmas holiday and wish you a very happy new year. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who gave me Christmas gifts; I was touched by your generosity and kindness. I am writing to tell you about the work that will be covered in Year 5 this term.

In Literacy we will be starting to use the digital text *Drag N' Drop* to help us in our writing, specifically looking at persuasion and instructional texts. Following this, we will then spend time focussing on classic narrative poetry like *the Owl and the Pussycat* before finishing by reciting *The Highwayman*. Please continue to hear your child read as much as possible; reading records are checked every Wednesday. Literacy homework will continue to be a mixture of writing and reading comprehension alternating with a Learning Log task. These are most always set on a Tuesday and due for return the following Tuesday.

In Numeracy, the children will continue in their maths groups, being either taught by Mr Haywood or me. We will be focussing on written methods of calculation, angles, fractions and percentages. Mr. Haywood's group will be looking at using algebra to solve linear equations and number sequences, data handling, probability, time and units of measure (including weight and capacity). Both groups will be continuing to work hard at improving the children's ability to use and apply their skills to different contexts and using most Friday mornings for mental maths.

In Science we will be looking at the Earth and Beyond. We will begin by looking at the position of the planets in space and how they differ from stars as well as how they move in space. Next we will move onto the Earth's rotation on space and how this links to the time of day and how we can use it to tell the time. The children will investigate why sunset and sunrise is different in different parts of the world and find out how and why we have different seasons. Finally the children will look at the different stages of the moon and why these occur. In the second half of the term we will be looking at materials and finding out why they are used for certain purposes. We will be testing different materials to see which is the strongest or most absorbent and how they can be used to keep things warm or cold.

Following on from our historical study of World War Two, we will be changing to a more geographical study this term looking specifically at the Alps. This will culminate in the class creating a publication all about the region and we hope to share its content with you later in the year.

Religious Education this term will focus on how sacred texts influence the lives of individuals and communities and looking specifically at Christianity, Islam and Judaism. PSHE will equip the children to know how to deal with bullying behaviour of all types, including cyber-bullying.

As Class 4 has P.E. twice during the week, please ensure they have their kit in school specifically on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This should include proper trainers, socks, shorts above the knee (for gym) and a warm tracksuit (for outdoor games). When the weather is very cold, gloves and a woolly hat may also be worn. It is school policy that long hair is tied up and no jewellery is worn for Games or P.E. Earrings must be removed if possible or tape supplied from home to cover them. We will be covering a mixture of outdoor games, fitness, gym and dance.

The children will continue to have Brass lessons on Thursdays so please ensure your child has his/her instrument in school on that day and regularly practises it.

If you have any concerns or wish to speak with me on any matter, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs Sond