

Year 5 Newsletter

Spring Term

January 2019

Dear Children, Parents and Carers of Year 5,

Firstly, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year! We would also like to say a big thank you for all your lovely Christmas presents and cards. We hope you had a brilliant holiday!

This half term, our exciting new topic is all about Brazil and the rainforest. In this topic we will be working on our map-reading skills whilst locating the major cities in Brazil, as well as in other countries in South America. We will be learning about what rainforests are and the differences between tropical and temperate rainforests. We will also be finding out about the different layers of the rainforest and what types of animals and plants are found in each layer. Whilst studying this topic, we will also learn about some of the environmental and conservation issues facing rainforest habitats. We are very much looking forward to starting this topic off with a visit to the Horniman Museum on Friday 11th January.

In Science, we will be continuing our topic about Properties of Materials and how they change. We will then move on to looking at Forces.

Our new class book explores an environmental issue. The majority of our English lessons will be linked to this. We will be writing diary entries in role as the main character, describing settings and characters, writing scripts and acting out scenes from the story. Spelling, punctuation, grammar, handwriting and guided reading will continue to take place on a regular basis.

Within our other areas of the curriculum, we will be working on coding as well as a stop-frame animation project in Computing; learning to play hockey and table tennis, as well as developing our health and fitness in PE; and learning about Sikhism in RE. We will, of course, also be continuing to develop and improve our skills in all the areas of maths, including a focus on place value, fractions, decimals and percentages, time, length and securing understanding of arithmetic as well as reasoning and problem solving.

Reminders:

Reading: We continue to expect that the children will complete at least 10 minutes of reading at home **each day** as it is a very important skill to develop and practise.

Homework: Look out for our new 'Take-Away Homework' relating to the rainforest. Children may also be assigned tasks on ActivLearn to complete at home, (children are aware of their usernames and passwords, but we can give reminders if required). We are also asking children to continue revising their tables. Don't forget to use www.ttrockstars.com and improve those rock speeds!

Spellings: New spellings for this half term will be sent home this week, with the first test the following Friday.

Reading Diaries: These should be in school **every day**.

P.E: Please ensure your child has their kit in school at all times. This **MUST** include shoes suitable for outdoor PE.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Chambers and Mrs. Dakin ☺