

January 2022

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!

### **Topic (Geography)**

This half term, our exciting new topic is all about Brazil and rainforests. 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.

### **Science**

In Science, we will be continuing our topic about Properties of Materials and how they change. This will include dissolving, separation of materials, (including filtration), and electrical conductivity. We will then move on to looking at Forces.

### **English**

Our class books explore environmental issues. These books include:

- 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry

- 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick.

The majority of our English lessons will be linked to these. There are lots of activities linked to these, some of which include 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.

Our spelling is available on Google Classroom and the main areas are below:

14/01/2022 oy\_oi

21/01/2022 \_ed suffix

28/01/2022 \_er\_est suffix

04/02/2022 \_ing suffix

11/02/2022 \_j endings

We will continue to look at common exception words.

In Grammar we will be looking at revising the constituents of a range of grammatically correct sentences, using commas to separate clauses, use of relative clauses, changing tense, modal verbs, synonyms and parenthesis. We will be encouraging your children to work on their proof-reading, checking for errors and ensuring their handwriting is neat and joined.

### **Maths**

As a school, we are following the White Rose maths scheme and we supplement, modify and extend this with other resources and ideas as necessary. This term we will be looking at: multiples, factors, prime, square and cube numbers and how to multiply numbers by 10, 100 or 1000. We will then look at 'reasoning' multiplication problems and applying learnt knowledge by using such methods as bar models or estimation and checking. The remaining part of this term will be concerned with fraction, decimals and percentages.

All children should know their tables up to 12x12 and be able to instantly recall them by the end of Year 4. We are working hard in class to ensure all children have the opportunity to consolidate and expand their understanding if secure or to embed new learning where required. All children have access to 'Times Table Rock Stars' and we use this to help children with their table knowledge. We recommend children using this at home.

### **Other curriculum areas**

Within our other areas of the curriculum, we will be working on coding as well as a stop-frame animation project in Computing; in PE we are learning to play volleyball and creating gymnastic sequences, (including using apparatus), as well as developing our health and fitness. Our PE days will be Thursday and Friday. In RE we will be learning about Sikhism. Our PSHE, ('Personal, Social Health Education') is entitled 'Dreams and Goals' and asks children to reflect on their futures, what they want to do and how to achieve this.

### **Reminders:**

Reading: We continue to expect that the children will complete at least 15 minutes of reading at home **each day** as it is a very important skill to develop and practise. Children should have a book with them in school every day and record their reading in their reading diaries. It would be beneficial for you to hear your child read and discuss what they have read in order to check their understanding. Please record this in the reading record, which should be in school every day.

Homework: Look out for our new 'Take-Away Homework' relating to the rainforest. We are also asking children to continue revising their tables. Don't forget to use [www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com) and improve those rock speeds!

### **Covid 19:**

As you know, we currently have restrictions in place in school to try to slow the spread of Covid-19 between staff and between children. At the moment, Year 5 have their lunch quite late (12:45-1:30). If they have not had breakfast, this is a very long time for them to wait for food. Can you please ensure that your child has eaten breakfast before they come to school in the morning. Children may also bring a healthy snack to eat during morning break time (no nuts, please).

If any of the children are advised to self-isolate but are not unwell, we will put work on Google Classroom for them to complete. There will be a short general task followed by individual work which linked to current areas of learning: this will be 'Oak Academy' lessons and work that they can do independently. We can add more work, if necessary. Children are not expected to complete work at home if they are ill.

As ever, thank you for your support. Should you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Chambers and Miss O'Gorman ☺