



Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello and welcome back to the new year and new term! I hope you all had a great Christmas and a restful holiday. I would like to thank you for your Christmas gifts – these were a lovely surprise for the end of the year. Thank you!

Year 5 has a packed term ahead and I hope this newsletter helps to answer any questions you may have. If there are any unanswered questions or you would like to speak with me, please feel free to catch me at the end of the day or make contact through the school office.

Spring Curriculum

Our overall theme this term is: At home in Alaska. The children have already enjoyed a launch day of discovering more about this mysterious frontier landscape.

English

Linked in to the Alaskan, theme our English topic is discursive texts. We will be discussing hot topics, such as the need for whale hunting and the evidence for climate change found in Alaska. The children have already formed sides in several debates and are looking forward to arguing their team's positions. Later in the term we will be focusing on the Highwayman as a poetry text to be used for our own poems and creative writing.



Maths



We have begun this term with our topic of multiplication and division. This topic involves the use of formal methods (long and short multiplication and short division), as well as mental calculation and problem solving. We will be moving on to fraction work – focusing on comparing and ordering fractions, converting between mixed and improper fractions and learning the equivalence between fractions and decimals. This will lead us on to working with percentages. Each day we will also be practicing our times tables and mental maths skills. You can support this at home with the times table challenge and daily practise using Timetable Rockstars – ask your children what their current score is!



Science

Our first topic this term revolves around Forces. Children will have the opportunity to create their own investigations into the relationships between gravity, air resistance and friction – as well as demonstrate the effects of water resistance in action. In the second half term we will move on to studying living things and their habitats. This will involve life cycles and reproduction in plants and some animals.



PE

This term our days for PE are Tuesday (dodgeball) and Friday (gymnastics). Please make sure your child has their kit in school on those days and that earrings are not worn.

RE

After the completion of our Christmas unit, we are studying a unit of Baptism – beginning with the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of his journey. We will also focus on the Parables and teachings of Jesus before studying Lent and Holy Week in preparation for Easter after half term.

In order to help with our baptism unit, children are encouraged to bring in any photographs (or copies of photos) of their own baptism or any baptisms they have attended.

Reading

Your child should be aiming to read at home on an (almost) daily basis. The expectation for Year 5 is that they read for a minimum of 10-15 minutes 5 times a week – one of these being with an adult. Your child should fill in their reading record each time they read and should be handed in each Monday to be checked. They are also responsible for swapping to a new suitable book when a book is finished, but they will be supported in finding a suitable book if needed. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading and that you sign their record each week to confirm that what is recorded is a true record. I cannot overemphasise how important it is that you encourage your child to read at home as so much can be gained from this.

Spelling and times tables

Each Friday, 5 new spelling words are given to the children. Copies of these words are available in the classroom for children to take a note of and another copy is available on the school website. These words are tested the following Friday along with a mixture of previous words covered. Along with the new spellings, children are given a times table challenge to complete during the week to be handed in on the following Friday. If your child does not complete the times tables they will be expected to attend Homework Club during their lunchtime. Please keep up the practise at home!

Dates for the Diary

Friday 8 th February	Mid-year reports to parents
Wednesday 13 th February	Open evening
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February	Half term holiday
Monday 25 th February	Teacher training day
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 15 th March	St Patrick's Day coffee morning
Monday 18 th March-Wednesday 20 th March	Alton Castle residential
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 5/6 Class Mass
Friday 29 th March	Home Study Celebration
Friday 12 th April	Last day of spring term

We have had a fantastic first term in Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard, shown great motivation and made good progress. I am greatly looking forward to an exciting term and cannot wait to get started!

Kind regards,

T. Rolison E. Kerry