

Dear Parents

Welcome back and a belated Happy New Year! I hope you had a relaxing holiday, after what was a very busy first term. This term we have a packed program of events on offer, including the Year 5 residential camp, which will take place from Sunday 17th until Tuesday 19th January.

5H

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- ICT
Monday-	- French / Swimming / Library
Tuesday	- PE / Choral
Wednesday	- French / Music

5T

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- ICT
Monday	- French / Swimming / Library
Tuesday	- PE / Choral
Wednesday	- French / Music

5TT

Saturday	- PE / ICT
Sunday	-
Monday	- French / Swimming / Library
Tuesday	- PE / Choral
Wednesday	- French / Music

CURRICULUM

Literacy

As in the U.K. we will continue to follow the Literacy Framework. This is a very structured programme which teaches: spelling strategies, spelling conventions and rules, vocabulary, grammatical awareness, sentence construction and punctuation, reading comprehension and writing composition using both fiction and non-fiction texts.

This term focuses on:

- Traditional stories, myths, legends and fables from a variety of cultures
- Concrete and shape poetry
- Research skills and note taking
- Non-chronological reports
- Explanations

Reading skills will continue to be developed during guided reading sessions. These are concentrated half hour sessions where we work with a small group of children, hearing them read aloud, discussing and drawing attention to vocabulary, plot, punctuation and narrative style.

Numeracy

We will continue to follow the Numeracy Framework. This term there is a continued emphasis on the development of mental calculation skills and, we will be looking at new approaches to addition and subtraction. There will also be a strong focus on learning different ways to multiply and divide, both mentally and in written form.

This work will be underpinned by a continuing emphasis on the fundamental skills used within the four number operations including; reading and writing of whole numbers in figures and words and developing instant recall of number facts. We will be continuing to develop the methods and approaches needed to solve real life problems, including multistep problems that apply knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages.

We will be investigating and reasoning about properties of shape and looking for the opportunity to utilise this knowledge when dealing with real life problems.

It can often make a real difference if children get regular practise at home learning and checking their times tables. Little and often is the best way, and *10 minutes every day* learning their tables can really help. Our goal is that by the end of Year 5 the majority of the students will be confident with their times tables.

Science

Our science topic this term is 'Life cycles'.

As part of this topic, we will look at the life cycle of plants, and learn about pollination, germination, fertilisation, and seed dispersal. We will study the parts of the flower, and grow our own seeds in different conditions and compare results.

Humanities

This term we will take a more in-depth look at Oman, past and present. We will look at various aspects of Omani culture, and consider the importance of water in a desert environment. Our residential visit to Ibra will enable us to see and experience first hand some of the key features of this fascinating country.

Art

We will begin by looking at artists who have been influenced by music. Children will experiment with colour and shape and discuss how music influences their own work. We then move on to look at how myths and legends have been portrayed in art. Our final piece of work is a textile picture retelling a story from a different time and culture.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The themes for this term's CPSHE and circle time are 'Going for Goals' and 'Good to be me'. These are taken from our new, whole School scheme of work which is based on the UK SEAL materials. SEAL stands for Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning. It ensures that all children across the Primary School can learn about the same issues at the same time, in an age appropriate way.

'Going for Goals' focuses on the key aspect of motivation and provides an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. As well as setting and achieving goals, Children will be finding out how to begin to take

responsibility for their learning and the importance of persistence and of resilience, (bouncing back or maintaining effort through a difficult experience or after a mistake or failure).

The second unit explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self awareness and helping children realise that it really is 'Good to be me'. The theme focuses on understanding feelings, and why and how they lead us to behave the way we do-particularly the feelings of being excited, proud, surprised, hopeful, disappointed, worried and anxious. Throughout both units, children will be learning through role play, discussion and playing games using school assembly time to support classroom activities.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term children will continue analysing data and see that information held in databases may contain errors and that this can affect results. Later children will design and create a simple advertising display which produces a combination of events; write simple procedures and link output devices together to get a desired outcome.

Music

'Lyrics and Melody' is the first topic this term. It develops the children's ability to compose a song with an awareness of the relationship between lyrics and melody. They learn of the important role played by lyrics in songs. In particular they focus on the different functions of lyrics in conveying mood, expressing attitude or telling a story. They employ simple techniques for composing lyrics of their own and setting these to melodies. They learn about the cultural and social significance of 'the blues' lyrics in particular and how that meaning should be reflected in performance as well as in the composition itself.

The second, shorter topic, 'Music from Arabia', is new this year. It aims to complement the Oman topic that the children study in class. They will learn about traditional Omani instruments and the origins of Arab music and dance.

New musical vocabulary (or 'WOW' words) will be learnt throughout the term.

French

Year Five will be working on Units 3 and 4 of the scheme 'Rigolo 2'. In Unit 3, 'La Nourriture', they will be learning how to ask politely for food items, describe how to make a sandwich, express opinions about food and talk about healthy and unhealthy food. In Unit 4, 'En Ville', they will learn to name places in a town, ask the way and give directions, say where they are going and give the time. The interactive material will be supplemented with worksheets to practise the four skills of reading writing, speaking and listening.

Homework

In Year 5, children should read every night. Ideally this should be a shared reading experience with an adult or older sibling. Reading books and personal organisers should be taken home and then brought back into school the following day. We would like to ask parents to sign the reading record in the personal organiser when the book has been completed or when you hear your child read aloud. It would also be helpful if you could spend some time discussing the book with your child, (favourite characters, most interesting part, and so on), to check it has been read and thoroughly understood. Reading aloud to your child can also be a very beneficial experience as well.

A list of spelling words, rules and background information will be given out every Saturday, and children should learn these words each evening, ready for a test on Tuesday.

Emphasis will be placed on mental maths calculation this year, and the children will given personal maths targets (from their numeracy passports) to learn each night as part of their homework, which will be regularly tested, usually in the Wednesday Numeracy session. 10-15 minutes each evening would be very beneficial.

Your child may ask you to help them practice their passport target and/or test them within a time limit. Your support with this is appreciated.

Reading at Home

Reading at home is still very important for every child's language development, so please encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every day. It can also be very beneficial to sit and read with your child, perhaps reading alternate paragraphs or pages, or just listening as they read aloud to you, and discussing the book as you are reading. This may be particularly helpful if your child is tackling quite a challenging book. Please use the personal organiser to record what has been read and add any comments that you might have.

Equipment needed for this term

- A blue pen. Either a fine line fibre tipped pen, uniball or fountain pen
- Pencils (HB) – but no erasers on the end please as they smudge your work.
- A 30 cm ruler
- A good eraser
- Simple calculator
- Coloured pencils and sharpener
- Glue stick and scissors.
- Art shirt or apron (to be kept in school)

Tuck Shop

The tuck shop is open to children in Year Five for the first 10 minutes of first break on a daily basis. This facility is intended to supplement your child's lunchbox and we would ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

Events This Term

Residential to Ibra – 17th – 20th January
Mid-Year Reports sent home – 26th January
KS2 Sports Day – 27th January
Parent Teacher Consultations – 31st January and 2nd February
KS2 Enrichment Day – 9th February
KS2 Swimming Gala – 29th March
Easter Egg Competition – 30th March

This will be a very busy and exciting term, and we're all looking forward to it. Further information about the National Curriculum expectations for each year group can be found at www.nc.uk.net

Thank you for your support.

Richard Turley (Year Leader)
Christine Helmore
Tamsin Turner