

Teamwork will be our mini topic for the first few weeks back. We will visit the Country Park and take part in a range of activities which will develop our Team work skills.

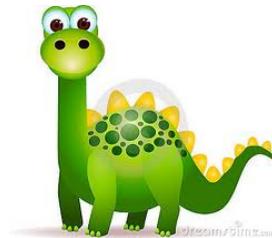
In **English**, we will begin by studying the novel 'The Fastest Boy in the World' by Elizabeth Laird. We will research an athlete of our choice and write their biography. We will also look at the writing of Charles Dickens (to tie in with the Victorian theme in our Topic), study some of his stories and look at his life and work.

Pupils will be expected to read for at least 20 minutes every night and should be reading a mix of fiction and non-fiction texts. We are all aiming to gain Master Class status in AR. Spellings should be practised every night and Spellzone completed when set.

In **Maths** we will begin by checking and securing children's understanding of place value- a fundamental foundation for all mathematical processes. Addressing rules and exceptions such as, the more digits a number has, the larger it must be: any 4-digit whole number is larger than any 3-digit whole number. But this is not true of decimal numbers: having more digits does not make a decimal number necessarily bigger. Pupils will need to continue to practise their tables every night and complete their MyMaths when set.

Our **topic** this term is Evolve or Die. We will discuss fossils as evidence of life millions of years ago & study the life of Mary Anning. We will compare offspring with parents & see how plants/animals are adapted to habitats. Our study will look at Darwin, Wallace & Mendel's contributions to our understanding of evolution.

Evolve or Die!



Autumn Term - Year 5/6 Information for parents/carers

In **R.E.** our first unit will be looking at creation stories from different religions.

In **P.E.** we will focus on the physical skills of accurate throwing with increasingly challenging activities; coordinating body movements and static balances; understanding the importance of fitness and how their bodies react to physical activity within the context of a healthy lifestyle.

In **Computing** we will learn to be responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology. Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable /unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact. Our topic will then involve us looking at algorithms and using scratch to create food chains.

In **French** we will be learning and using language with regard to close and extended family members, household tasks, a family weekend, birthdays, and a traditional story read in French.

In **Design and Technology** we will be experimenting with the skills and traditions of Batik to create work based on our topic.



P.S.H.C.E: Two units will be covered: New Beginnings and Getting On and Falling Out. Our values this term are teamwork and respect.

In **Music** we will consider how animals are portrayed through music by studying the work of Saint-Saens.

Homework Expectations.

All pupils will be expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes every night. Spelling practice should take 5-10 minutes every night and tables practice will take 5-10 minutes every night. This expectation will be communicated to pupils at the beginning of the year. Any pupils who do not complete this will be kept in to catch up at lunchtimes.

Pupils will be set mymaths or Spellzone activities every week. There will be opportunity for any pupils without internet access at home to complete this during lunchtimes. Any pupil failing to complete the homework will be kept in at lunchtime to get up to date. The mymaths homework will consolidate whatever we have been learning that week.

This will be the same for every week so that pupils, teachers and parents know exactly what is expected in terms of homework every night. You will no longer hear, 'I haven't got any homework tonight', you will know that they have at least 30 minutes every night and mymaths/spellzone once a week. If there are any problems with homework then please let us know at school.

Please ensure that all uniform, PE kit, coats, packed lunch boxes and water bottles are named to ensure that we can reunite lost children with their property.

It is essential that pupils bring a water bottle to school so that they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Why can't I skip my 20 minutes of reading tonight?

Let's figure it out ...Mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes, 5 nights every week.
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all.

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 each week.

Student A reads 20 min x 5 times a week = 100 minutes a week.

Student B reads 4 min x 5 times a week = 20 minutes

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.

Student A reads 400 minutes a month.

Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year.

Student A reads 3,600 minutes in a school year.

Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.

Student A practices reading for the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.

Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of year 6 if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits - not counting reading at the weekend or during summer holidays -

Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days.

Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.

You would expect the gap of information gained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly will school performance.

Some questions to ponder...

Which student would you expect to read better?

Which student would you expect to know more?

Which student would you expect to write better?

Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?