

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a 'Happy New Year' to you - Mrs Taylor, Miss McLeod and I hope you all had a pleasant break and are looking forward to the forthcoming half term.



We are following up 'Shakespeare' this term with 'Marvellous Mountains', which will be mostly geography-based and which I am hoping the class will find just as engaging. To tie in with this, in English we will be sharing our adapted 'Talk for Writing' text of 'The Hobbit' (featuring the journey to the Lonely Mountain) to enable us to write 'Journey' stories.

Maths will see us starting by considering Multiplication and Division before moving on to look at Fractions.

May I remind you that **it is vital that your child's P.E. kit is in school every day** as this allows your child to change in the event of them becoming wet and/or muddy during morning break or lunchtime play. Please ensure that your child has kit suitable for the weather, as some days are now quite damp and/or chilly and there may be times when we will be outside. In addition to shorts/skorts and a t-shirt, I would suggest that they bring a sweatshirt specifically for P.E., rather than wearing their school one - as it may get muddy and/or wet - and a pair of jogging bottoms.

Home Learning

Spellings will continue be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Further information on spellings for year 5 (and the rest of the National Curriculum) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum> In accordance with school policy, all members of the class will be learning spellings aimed specifically at Year 5, while revising spelling rules from previous years with which they are less confident in class. As you are aware, spellings are linked into handwriting and your child will be bringing home a sheet on which they need to practise their new spellings each week, **in their best handwriting**. Unless your child has gained their 'pen licence', pencil is preferred to pen – especially biros as they often smudge or leak, which impacts on the appearance of your child's writing.

Times tables will also be sent home weekly and again tested in school, usually on a Thursday. In addition to ensuring that your child completes the sheet they have been given, please help them to practise the relevant table **every day**, including the accompanying division facts, in whichever way you and your child prefer. The key instant recall maths facts for this half term are attached to this letter and it is essential that they are practised regularly to support your child's learning.

We were all extremely impressed by the high standard of home learning tasks shared just before half term and delighted that most if the class completed a project. This term, at home over the course of the next few weeks, I would like your child to complete an extended piece of work linked to our current topic. They should choose one of the following, to be brought to school no later than Monday 11th February, please:

- Build a model of a mountain – either a real one such as Mount Everest or one from their imagination.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation, which they will deliver to the class, on someone connected in some way to mountains, e.g. a famous mountaineer or downhill skier.
- Bake a food to share with the class associated with a mountainous country or area such as The Alps (no recipes containing nuts, please) and copy out and illustrate the recipe (by hand or using ICT) for those of us who are keen to replicate it at home. Please note that we are unable to reheat food and that if your child brings in something that is not easily portioned by being cut up (such as stewed fruit) we would very much appreciate disposable teaspoons/cups so that everyone who wishes to try it, may.
- Create a model of a mountain animal (real or mythical) using media of their own choosing
- Make something practical to be used by a mountaineer or a sportsman/woman who would spend time on a mountain e.g. knitting a scarf

In order that your child's memory stick is not lost or damaged, and to avoid the risk of transferring viruses in either direction, please email electronic projects such as PowerPoints to the office, who will then forward them to us to share with the class.

Helping in class

We would welcome any help that you feel able to offer us, either regularly with reading, or as a 'one off' when you are able for special activities such as crafts or cooking – please contact us either directly or via the office. In line with the school's Safeguarding Policy, please note that volunteers within the school community are subject to checks carried out by the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and will be asked for references.

How can you continue to help?

- Read regularly with your child asking them questions about what they are reading, the characters and their opinions then signing in the reading diary to confirm that they have read with you **every day**. Please also encourage them to read a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts.
- Encourage children to learn spellings, times tables and key maths facts.
- Ensure your child brings in their P.E. kit **on a Monday and that it stays in school until Friday**. Kit should be appropriate to the activities being taught.
- Ensure children have a warm coat, now that the weather is much damper and chillier.

Next half term

After February half term, our theme will be 'The Mayans'. Forest Schools will again take place on a Thursday afternoon.

Of course, should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and talk to me via the office.

Kind regards,

Jacqui Sydney,
Raven Class Teacher