

## Dove Class Newsletter 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I trust you had a restful half term holiday.

For this half term our topic will be 'The Maya, which is mostly history-based. We will be learning about the Maya tribe from central America: their customs and traditions as well as looking at where countries in Central America are situated. Our Art topic will also focus on Central America; we will be looking at work by a number of Central American artists.

'Talk for Writing' will tie in with our topic as we will be writing a journey story based on 'The Rain player' After this, our non-fiction topic will information texts. In Maths, we be looking at area, perimeter, volume, algebra, graphs and data as well as revisiting the four operations and fractions, decimals and percentages work from last term. In science, we will be learning about the human body.

Just a reminder 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 may be a little damp and/or chilly and we will be outside as much as possible. 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 be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Further information on spellings for year 6 (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 6, while revising spelling rules from previous years with which they are less confident in class. As there is a specific SATS spelling test or Year 6 in May, it is important that he children are familiar with the spellings from Years 3-6.

As you are aware, spellings are now 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**. At this point in the year, pencil is preferred to pen – especially biros as they often smudge or leak, which impacts on the appearance of your child's writing. In addition to this, your child will also be set one challenge on spelling shed (<https://play.edshed.co/login>) to be completed by the following week. Please ask if your child does not have a login and this can be provided.

Times tables will also be sent home weekly and again tested in school, usually on a Wednesday. 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 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. In addition to this, your child will also be set one challenge on times tables rock stars (<https://trockstars.com/login>) to be completed by the following week. Please ask if your child does not have a login and this can be provided.

Reading should be completed on a daily basis and recorded in your child's reading record. These will be checked by a member of staff twice weekly.

At home over the course of the term, I would like your child to complete a piece of work based on our topic. Please complete the first task by the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March then choose a practical task below, to be completed and brought into school no later than Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Use the model text of 'The Rain Player' and using a key, highlight all of the: nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, determiners and pronouns.
- Create a poster showing information about one of the countries in Central America.
- Make and present an informative PowerPoint about a Central American country or the Mayan culture.
- Make a traditional Central or South American craft ( eg: a dream catcher)
- Find out about the Mayan ball game of Pok-a-tok then write a set of instructions explaining how to play it.
- Research and create an information poster about the Mayan religious beliefs and some of the Gods that they worshipped.
- Create a model of a Mayan pyramid and decorate it with some Mayan art.
- Write a story about a Mayan warrior, then turn it into a comic book
- Make traditional dish from a Central American country (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.

To avoid the risk of your child losing/damaging a memory stick, please email any electronic presentations to the office.

#### 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 the office if you feel able to assist in this way. 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, which this half term will be dance.
- Ensure children have a water bottle.
- As you will be aware, SATs will take place next term. In order to prepare your children fully for this, we advise that they use their revision guides for 10 minutes a day in order to revise. Each week, if your child has completed their revision, they will be entered into a draw to win a crème egg each week in the lead up to Easter.

#### Next half term

After the Easter break, our theme will be 'Leisure and Entertainment'.

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

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kate Purling  
Dove Class Teacher