

Class 5 Curriculum Update

Friday 18th November 2022

Monthly values – 'Empathy' and 'Respect'



'In your element'

We are currently in the middle of a short unit of work all about volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods. We started by looking at the tallest mountains and longest rivers in the four countries of the United Kingdom, which your child should hopefully be able to name! We've recently been learning about the eruption of Vesuvius next to Pompeii and wrote a newspaper report about it. Next week, we will be looking at tsunamis.

In our weekly music sessions with 'Encore music', I've been really impressed with their ability on the 'toot' instrument! They have easily picked up the chords B, A, G and E. We are hoping to be able to perform a little Christmas song at the Carol Concert so stay tuned for more details when we have them!





Reading

Please encourage your child to read for 5-10 minutes daily and write it in their diaries. Reading can be anything – it doesn't need to be a long novel. Non-fiction books, magazines, cookery books, football reports, comics etc. are all valid reading opportunities. Above all, reading should be enjoyable and for pleasure. So find something your child is interested in and find somewhere comfortable to read. There is no right or wrong place – wherever works best for your child. Enjoy!

Homework

Homework expectations are that each child practises their times tables and spellings every week. TTRockstars is the best way to practise times tables and it now has an algorithm that gives each child questions that will automatically move them on and make progress with the more they practise. We regularly have class 'battles' to show who is practising and scoring points for their team. The National Curriculum states that the expectations are that children should be secure in all their times tables by the end of Year 4 and a lot of maths work in Years 5 and 6 work on the basis that children are comfortable with all these times tables.

Every week, your child will bring home a spelling list in their red spellings book. They should have a spellings menu to practise in different ways that work for them. The same spellings are also put as an 'assignment' on Spellingshed. Each week the top scorers gain merit points. Again, these spellings come from the National Curriculum. For both spellings and times tables, little but often is generally the best way to practise. 5-10 minutes every day will embed new learning rather than 30 minutes once a week.



Next theme

Soon, we will be starting our next theme, which is called 'Mission Control' and is all about learning about 'space'. This theme will continue either side of Christmas so we will hopefully get lots of great learning from it. Have you got any interests, artefacts or connections that you can share with the class to improve all of our understanding?

Please feel free to speak to me (via phone or email) if you have any worries or concerns regarding your child, whether it is to do with at school or at home.

From Mr Ford, Mr Batstone and the Year 5 Team.