

Year 5 newsletter Autumn Term 2010

We hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your children and note that they have come back bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ready for the new school year!

As well as the class teacher, year 5 will be taught by other teachers during the course of a school week. Class 11 will be taught Geography by Mrs Howes on Thursday mornings. Mrs Keller will teach class 12's Geography on Wednesday mornings as well as PE and Maths on Thursday mornings. On Friday afternoons until half term in October, Mrs Newton will teach class 12's RE. Children will further their French oral and written skills with Mr. Hicks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We continue to benefit from the regular support of teaching assistants in year 5: Mrs Sharkey, Mrs Piverpolous, Mrs Dhese, Mrs Steele, Mrs Driver and Mrs Goodwin will work with children in year 5 at various times during the week.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to help your child to remember his/her P.E. kit on Wednesdays and Thursdays (class 12)/Fridays (class 11), including trainers for both days in case of bad weather, and a sports sweater for the colder months. Shorts are needed for safety in indoor sessions and no jewellery should be worn.

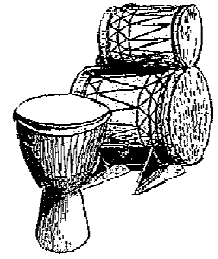


There are lots of stimulating texts and topics for the children to work on during year 5, thus furthering their skills in Literacy. This term, the children will study texts by Paul Jennings, Michael Morpurgo and Louis Sachar – a range of authors whose writing usually sparks enthusiasm in even the most reluctant reader! In addition, we will investigate instructional texts and how to write these precisely. Reading is an important part of the daily routine in year 5 and pupils will have an opportunity to read and investigate texts within small groups as well as within whole class lessons across the curriculum.

In Numeracy our units of work are: counting, partitioning and calculating, understanding shape, handling data and measures, securing number facts and relationships between numbers and shapes. We will spend some of the time in the initial weeks evaluating the children's current abilities with place value and their knowledge of key number facts. Your support in reinforcing times tables will be greatly appreciated.

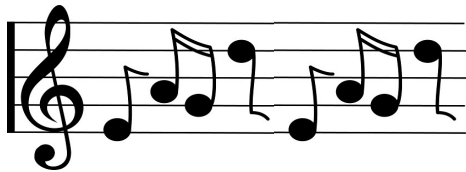


A further exciting activity for the year 5 children this term is the continuation of whole class African drumming sessions embarked upon by the children last year. These will be taught by Miss Moulton, whom the children got to know in year 4, with support from Mrs Cutts. We hope that the children will gain a lot from continuing learning to play a new musical instrument. Where children are interested in individual and small group instrumental lessons on brass, string, woodwind or percussion instruments parents need to contact Cambridgeshire Music directly via their website to arrange those sessions during school time.



Also in this term, we will be combining work in D.T., Science, Music, I.C.T., P.S.H.C.E., P.E., Literacy and Maths in a topic called “How to!” where children will learn about sound and plan and make their own musical instruments.

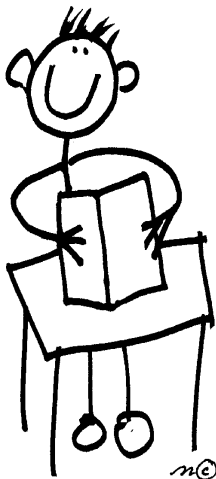
In addition to this, all year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to further their instrumental skills as a member of the school orchestra, with weekly performances in school assemblies as well as performances in the church at Christmas. Rehearsals for the school orchestra will take place on Mondays at 3pm. Pupils will also need their instruments on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for assemblies.



Music clubs for year 5 children are:

- Y5/6 orchestra (from October half term)
- Choir (from October half term)
- Brass group (2nd half term of each term)

Homework will be set on a weekly basis, generally alternating between Maths and Literacy, although other tasks may be set if they link in with our topics in class. Tasks will be handed out on a Thursday and expected back the following Tuesday, although early returns are always welcome!



The very successful termly challenge homework task will also be handed out later in the term. In addition to written tasks, we also expect children to continue reading on a daily basis as part of their homework, supported by you in a way appropriate to the ability of your child; for some children this may be to hear them read and ask questions about the text whereas for others, it may be more appropriate to allow your child to read silently then ask probing questions to check a thorough understanding of what he/she has read. Your child will have an opportunity to take books home from the school library on a weekly basis, changing books on a Thursday, although we do recognise that longer books may require a longer time-scale to read.

Finally, we look forward to meeting you at the parental consultations in October to discuss how your child has settled in to a year group full of exciting new experiences!