

# Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

As we near the end of term we would like to take a moment to reflect on how proud we are of Year 5 and the way they have approached their return to school since September. While we have faced many changes to our normal routines the resilience and positivity of the children have helped to make each day in school a productive and successful one. We have seen so much progress across the curriculum and given these strange times the children should take heart from their successes.

## Maths



In Maths we have consolidated our learning on place value and the four operations ensuring we are confident with different methods. We have applied these skills to problem solving and reasoning questions thinking how we can use our knowledge to identify an answer. So far, there has been excellent progress in Maths across the whole year group, very well done.

The children have also enjoyed participating in a weekly Times Table Rock Stars competition against Year 6 which they regularly win! We hope the children will continue to make use of this learning platform over the holidays.

This term, our Literacy work has been closely linked to Ancient Egypt and the book 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed working on these texts and have produced some excellent work surrounding these themes. We have applied our writing skills to a variety of genres including narratives, persuasion, newspapers and discussion texts. Additionally, we have focused on our grammar, punctuation and spelling skills within Literacy which has also developed the children's writing. Our weekly spelling tests have helped to focus on both common patterns and unusual words. Finally, we have worked on comprehension skills, finding and explaining the information found in a text as well as improving the children's abilities in reading between the lines and inference, we have explored a range of texts that link both to other curriculum subjects, as well as stand alone texts.

We are very grateful for the support with Literacy homework this term, the children succeeded in their letters to Mr Lyons and persuaded him to give the whole school a non-uniform day.

## Literacy

## Science



Our Science lessons have looked at forces and the way they operate in the world around us. We have considered how gravity works, focusing on the work of Sir Isaac Newton and his ground-breaking discoveries. We have investigated a range of different forces including air resistance, water resistance and friction. These experiments included looking at a range of surfaces to establish which created most friction. We have worked hard on considering how to set up investigations while ensuring fair testing. Our work also included making predictions and thinking how to present our results. Finally, we worked on explaining our ideas through our conclusions and considering how we could improve our experiments next time.



# Topic and other subjects



We've packed in lots of topic work this term as we looked at both Ancient and Modern Egypt for our Geography and History focus. This has given us lots of opportunities for cross curricular work in Art and Literacy. The children have shown great skills in carrying out their own research using a range of websites, showing how much they can achieve as independent learners. It has been interesting learning about the River Nile, pyramids, landmarks, the mummification process and we even had time to promote Egypt as a tourist destination, producing persuasive posters and leaflets.

During Art we worked hard on our sketching, shading and painting techniques. In addition, the children have designed and produced Egyptian bangles after investigating the treasures found by archaeologists. We then used hieroglyphics as an inspiration for some printing and also created sunset paintings with silhouettes of Egyptian life. We then developed our clay skills by making our own canopic jars—used by the Ancient Egyptians for storing the internal organs of the dead!



We had a great sporting start to the school year participating in Sports Week. Some of our activities included Zumba, archery and crazy golf—we all had a great time. This term we have competed against other schools in Hampton for a virtual cross country race. All children completed laps of the field and their times were submitted against the other Year 5 children. In outdoor PE we have developed our netball skills and since been participating in tag rugby. For indoor PE, we had a great time developing our own fitness and creating fitness routines and are now enjoying dance.

Other highlights this term have included a virtual visit from children's author Will Mabbitt, who talked to the children about story writing. We were also very lucky to receive a visit from real life reindeer, helping us to get into the Christmas spirit in spite of all the restrictions this year. And while we haven't been able to get together as a whole school, we have made sure our classrooms have been as festive as possible, making decorations and contributing to the school's Winter Wonderland displays.



## And finally...

The term has certainly presented its challenges and we would like to thank all families for their support in helping to make it so productive and successful. Difficult times often give opportunities to shine and this has certainly been the case for our pupils over the last few weeks. Finally, we would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Here's to a return to more normality for 2021!

*Mr Godfrey, Miss Cross and Miss Shepherd*