



'Being Better Every Day'

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter – Term 3

We are excited to share our third curriculum newsletter of the school year! We are looking forward to learning all about the Ancient Mayan Civilization this term. These past two terms have been exciting learning about World War II and we cannot wait to witness the children's enthusiasm towards the Mayans in Term 3.

In **Term 3**, our unit title is **'Rainforest Realms'**. There is a big focus on **History** in this unit.

In this unit, we will be travelling back in time to discover the extraordinary Maya civilisation. We will see how they created beautiful writing using logograms and hieroglyphs and discover the Copan stairway. We plan to investigate the fascinatingly inventive maths and calendar systems of the Maya and learn about Maya numerals and the Dresden Codex, using sticks, stones and shells to represent numbers. We will also find out about the impressive buildings of this early civilisation and learn about the family-orientated society of the Maya community. We will then finish this topic unearthing the secrets of how this important civilization abruptly ended due to the impact of Spanish diseases and advanced weaponry of invading forces.

During this unit, your child will attempt to answer the concept question:

'What were the causes of the end of the ancient Mayan Civilization?'



(We have attached a 'Knowledge Organiser', providing an overview of the unit; this should be a useful resource for pupils and parents.)

Home Learning Project

For each unit, we will ask your child to complete a home-learning project. We ask that every child has a go at completing a project that can be brought into school. For this unit we have listed possible ideas below.

- **Investigate looking for stars/constellations in the night sky as the ancient Mayans did.**
- **Experiment with Latin American food e.g. Guacamole and Chilli.**
- **Design a historical Mayan temple or house.**
- **Produce a piece of art or writing based on a Central American country of your choice.**
- **Use an atlas, map or online tool, such as Google Earth, to pinpoint the location of Mexico. What can you see about the shape and size of the country? How does it compare to the United the United Kingdom?**

Alternatively, your child may want to do something completely different! Your child may wish to complete their project by themselves or need your support in completing their project – either is fine and we look forward to see them.



We have also included a list of websites you could explore at home to help your child with their learning:

Useful Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw/articles/zqv6msg>

https://school-learningzone.co.uk/key_stage_two/ks2_history/world_history/the_mayan_civilisation/the_mayan_civilisation.html

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/the-maya>

https://www.ducksters.com/history/maya/daily_life.php

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans/>

Home learning projects should be completed by the **week beginning Monday 10th February 2025**. If you have any questions about the home learning project, please contact your child's class teacher.

Reading

The children have been really enjoying our 'Destination Reader' work in class. Our next shared book will be '**Where the Mountain meets the Moon**' by **Grace Lin**. Please continue to encourage daily reading using home reading records that must be brought in and will be signed once a week.

Reading is the single most important skill that children will learn and we expect every child to read at home every day. In Year 5, we expect every child to read with an adult for a minimum of 20 minutes every day. Reading takes on many forms and can take place just about anywhere, including the reading of labels and signs, and in magazines and comics. Parents and carers should record the daily reading activity in your child's reading record.

Homework

Additionally we would like the children to be practising their times tables every day for at least 20 minutes. They all have an individual account for **Times Table Rock Stars**, which they are expected to use for this. The aim is for the children to be confident with their times tables.

Additional homework tasks

In addition, class teachers will set a 'homework menu' each term. This will contain a range of activities and subjects which children and families may choose to complete. The tasks and activities on this menu are **optional**.

PE

This term, our PE lessons will continue to take place on **Thursday** afternoons. Your child should wear their PE kit to school on the day of their lesson.

We hope your child will enjoy this term in Year 5 and we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas happy new year!

Yours sincerely,



Mr W. Mitchell
Year 5 Class Teacher



Mr A. Spiers
Year 5 Class Teacher, Phase Leader.

KNOWLEDGE – EQUALITY – DETERMINATION – ACHIEVEMENT