

Coral Class Newsletter

Autumn Term

Hello!

A very warm welcome to Coral Class and Year 5. We hope you had a restful holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready to face the coming year. We have a busy term ahead of us, continuing to work through the Primary National Curriculum and beginning our exciting topics. This newsletter will give you an insight into some of the work we will be covering and will provide some helpful reminders.

Homework

We will continue to send home a creative homework grid each half term and the children will need to complete a piece of homework from this sheet once a fortnight.

In the other weeks we will set some tasks on Mathletics and a target score on SpelloDrome for the children to achieve. We will write the homework into the children's contact books every Monday, so they can keep track of what is due in when.

We are always very grateful for your support and if you can ensure that your child completes their home learning neatly and by the correct day it will be much appreciated.

The children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes EVERY day and must record their reading in their Home Learning Planner as part of the Star Reader incentive.

To give the children the opportunity to complete their home learning at school we will be running a home learning club every lunchtime in 'The Hub'. Please encourage your children to attend if they struggle to complete their home learning at home.

Star Reader

This year in Upper KS2 we will be continuing the Star Reader incentive. Your child is encouraged to read every single day, to you or with you. In your child's Home Learning Planner, they will receive a Star Reader sticker each week that they record five separate entries that are signed. After this they will receive certificates when they receive 3, 5, 10, 20 and 30 Star Reader stickers. If your child manages to obtain 30 Star Reader stickers, they will also receive a new book. Knollmead is continuing to promote reading and we hope you will endeavour to support us with this new initiative.

We are really focusing on them **understanding vocabulary**, so please make sure they have a dictionary, ipad or computer to look up words they do not understand whilst they are reading. Or encourage them to ask you the meaning of unknown words.

Contact books

The children bring home their Pupil Planners into school every day. These will be signed on a weekly basis in school (Monday) and we would appreciate it if you could do the same at home. If you have any messages, please use this book (or, of course, a separate letter if confidential). These books will also contain your child's Reading Record; children are asked to keep a note of everything they read at home and we will also note any reading they do with an adult in school. Please initial where you child has noted their reading.

Computing

This half term, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding surrounding E-safety. We discuss online safety and the best way to look after yourself when using the internet. We will later move onto blogging, which will have links to literacy and SPaG lessons. In addition, children will have access to the internet in order to find text and images to support other subject areas.

P.E.

The children will have PE lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has a full, named PE kit in school at all times (including plimsolls/trainers for outdoor PE sessions). The lessons

could be indoors or outdoors depending on the topic and the weather so the children need to be prepared for both!

Over the course of the term, the children will be developing their skills through a number of gym and dance activities. The focus of our outdoor sessions will involve learning the skills and rules for tag rugby and golf.

R.E.

Our focus for R.E. for the first half term is Christianity.

Cornerstones

Our first Cornerstones topic will be Pharaohs, which will cover everything to do with the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. The areas the children will be looking at include mummies, Tutankhamun, Egyptian artefacts and inventions, gods, and where Egypt is on a map/globe. We are hoping to arrange a visit to the British Museum as part of this topic but this will be communicated once details are confirmed. We will be inviting parents to come in at 3pm on Friday 19th October to look at all the Egyptian work the children have been doing: hieroglyphic messages, personalised cartouches and their wonderful pieces of homework! **Trip: a letter will be on its way to you very shortly informing you of our trip to the British Museum on Thursday 11th October** - the children are already very excited about the fact that they will get to see some of the things they are learning about!

Our next Cornerstones topic we will be "Off With Her Head", which looks at the fascinating Tudor times, including, of course, Henry VIII and all his wives!

Science

In science this half term we are learning all about the solar system, including where the planets are and how they orbit the sun (including the children acting out being the solar system!), how night and day occur, what makes a year, where the sun is at different times of the day, shadows (we will be making shadow clocks) and more! The children have also been given a moon diary sheet to pop outside and look at the moon as often as they can. We will be using some of these sheets in a forthcoming lesson.

PSHE

Our first topic in PSHE is 'All About Me'. The children will be looking at what makes them the same or different to others. They will also look at recognising feelings (their own and others') and appreciating other people's opinions.

French

This year the children will have a French lesson every week taught by an French teacher from Coombe Girls' School. They will be continuing to work through the Rigolo scheme to learn the French Language.

We are looking forward to a happy and successful Year 5!
Mrs Jenkins & Mr Head