



# Welcome to our Spring Term Newsletter.

This term's topic is a multi-faceted one, titled 'The Marvellous Mayan civilisation'. This is linked to our class reader 'Pig-Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman - a book which raises some challenging and interesting moral, ethical and cultural dilemmas. The 'dilemma' theme is very much a focus this term and we will be encouraging children to read books with such a focus. We will also be asking them to place themselves in a variety of situations where there are challenging decisions to be made and more than one opinion to consider. All great learning for later-life, we're sure you'll agree.



## English

To begin, we will look at effective note taking techniques and will aim to write effective and objective summaries of our last term class reader - The Warrior King. Following this, we will learn how to write persuasively as well as structure balanced arguments. Linked to healthy humans and our science focus we will also write recounts, having dissected a real pig's heart! More about that in Science!



## Maths

This term, we will continue to reinforce their understanding of the 4 main arithmetic operations as well as honing their mental maths skills. Year 6 will begin looking at Geometry, followed by space, shape and measure. As the term progresses, we will challenge the children's problem solving skills - such is the importance now of being able to apply knowledge of number which should already be developed. We will then begin to revisit areas as required to ensure fluency in the lead up to SATs.

Year 5 will focus on area and perimeter, fractions - converting, ordering, comparing, adding and multiplying and finally decimals and percentages.

***It is imperative you regularly practice times-tables and division facts with your child at home until they are fluent as this knowledge allows them to access the other curriculum demands.***

On Fridays, we will focus on developing fluency in relation to fractions (+, -, x and ÷), decimals and percentages.

## **Homework this term...**

### **Spellings**

Children will receive spelling lists and rules to learn. Spellings will be **tested on a Friday morning**.

### **Reading logs**

**Monday** - children are now encouraged to and rewarded for reflecting on what they have read by writing a short summary every couple of reads. Please encourage your child to aim for the extra rewards, rather than simply completing the bare minimum.

### **Topic homework**

As required.

### **Superhero maths**

Children will be **tested on times tables (up to 12x12) on a weekly basis** and are expected to make progress each week having practiced.

Please help your child learn these key facts.



## Science

Science will be taught by on a weekly basis and or focus for this term will be to further develop their investigative skills and methods of scientific enquiry. Initially we will focus on the human body and key organs. We will investigate and extend our understanding relating to leading and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, as well as the importance of a healthy diet, making decisions and looking after ourselves. As mentioned in English, we will be looking 'closely' at some vital organs (probably not humans!). Please be assured, all tasks will be carried out carefully and appropriately.



## French/Computing

We will continue to learn French with Mrs Pickford each Wednesday afternoon. Initially Badgers will be working on putting together a 'sketch' of an interview with a celebrity in their mansion home. This will tie together all the learning from before Christmas regarding the Home topic. Later in the term we will be learning how to create detailed descriptions of animals, learn about 'Rear' and 'BAGS' adjectives and adjectival agreement. The year 6s will be doing some peer teaching to support year 5s in understanding how to navigate a bilingual dictionary.



## P.E.

**Please ensure your child has their PE kit with them at all times.** The children will normally have PE on alternate Monday afternoons and on Thursday mornings, however if the weather is poor, I will endeavour to swap the Monday session. **Towards the end of last year, the amount of children without the correct kit in School was ridiculously high - please ensure this is in school every day.** There will also be various sporting fixtures, tournaments and skills sessions during the term for those children who are interested.

**URGENT PLEA – We are desperate for parent helpers to accompany the class to swimming on a Friday afternoon. If you could volunteer for just one session, we would be very grateful. Simply let Mrs Haysham or myself know.**



## Music/Drama

In music on Thursday afternoons, such was the positive reaction from Badgers, we will continue to learn the ukulele - keep your eyes peeled for music evening news! We will also have a weekly singing assembly and there is of course the lunchtime choir club, which is so beneficial to children with reading/vocabulary/communication challenges. We are hoping to see more take advantage of this wonderful expertly taught and it is a free resource.



## Art/DT

We will link Art this term with our 'Marvellous Mayan civilisation' topic. The children will create tradition Mayan masks and depending on timescales maybe even create 3D Mayan temples.

**Residential** The children are looking forward to the summer term trip. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask. Thanks again for your continued support - we are all really excited about the term ahead!

**If you have any questions at all, please speak to Mr Day, Mrs Marsh or Mr Arnold**