

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Autumn Term ~ Year 5&6

Hello! Welcome back!

I hope you've all had a great summer. As we start our new school year, please utilize this newsletter to question your children on what they have been learning. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo to, so you can see what we are up to throughout the week.

This term, our PROJECT is titled 'Mexico and the Maya,' which focuses on Mexico – its geography, history and traditions – as well as the ancient Maya. In their PROJECT lessons, the children will explore the geography of Mexico and the Yucatán Peninsula; Mexican traditions, like the Day of the Dead and what makes Mexico an attractive place to visit. They will also learn about the ancient Maya people. They will undertake learning about their day-to-day lives, religious beliefs, the temples they built and the legacy they created. If you have any resources (books, souvenirs, etc) that you feel will aid us in our learning, we'd love to hear from you.

In mathematics, we will be going 'back to basics', in particular we will be focusing on place value and the four operations of calculation. The four operations will include adding and subtracting numbers of greater value as well as multiplying and dividing larger numbers (long multiplication and long division). Once the four operations are embedded, we will then explore fractions, where we will add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Knowledge of multiplication facts is crucial for children to be able to progress well in later units, so please encourage your child to access TT Rockstars and Prodigy regularly to maintain their skills.

In English and guided reading, we will be focusing on our class text, The Curse of the Maya by Johnny Pearce and Andy Loneragan. The story involves twins, Verity and Ethan, who go to Guatemala with their archaeologist father after a new Maya temple has been discovered. However, things take a turn when a mysterious Maya mask, that may be cursed, is found. We'll be writing our own Maya myths, discuss whether temples should be explored and write newspaper articles, based on the happenings in the book. Towards the end of the term, we'll consolidate our knowledge by writing a persuasive advert to visit Mexico as well as non-chronological report about the Maya.

In science, we will focus on living things and their habitats – especially hot jungle climates like those found in Central America. We'll also explore Earth and Space in our science lessons, linking our learning with the detailed calendars the Maya people created.

Being in my world is the focus of our PSHE sessions, which will focus on how to face challenges positively, understanding rights and responsibilities and know how behaviour can affect a group and the associated consequences.

In PE, the children will undertake various activities, led by Premier Education, to build up stamina and strength as well as playing as part of a team.

In music, the children will explore pitch.

Christianity will be the focus of R.E, where children will learn about holy symbols, places of worship and what it means to be a Christian.

Kind regards, Mr. J Anderson, Mrs. M Higginson and Mrs. R Damarell

### Reminder:

- Please continue to engage with Class Dojo to keep up to date on what is happening in school and in class.
- Please ensure that your children are reading regularly at home and encourage them to challenge themselves with different texts. Read Theory is also encouraged during 'device time'
  - Reading records will be reviewed every Monday, but please ensure your child brings it with them every day.
  - Please encourage children to interact with TT Rockstars and Prodigy to maintain fluency in mathematics.

### Messages:

P.E will take place on Wednesday; children are to attend in their school P.E kit, which will be worn all day.

There is no need to bring P.E kits in, but please make sure the kit is in line with our uniform policy. Children will carry out P.E in all weather, so please take this into consideration.

For PE, earrings must be removed or covered with a plaster or micropore tape and long hair must be tied back securely.