

Welcome to Year 5!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and see how engaged they are with their learning. We hope they are all raring to go for what is going to be an action packed term! This term we will cover two terrific topics: Rivers and Coasts, followed by an 'Adventure into Space'. In the second half term, the children will be preparing for their fantastic Year 5 production.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office or on our email, if you need to discuss your child.

Miss Baker & Miss Brewer

miss.baker@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Rivers and Space

In our topic, we will identify the key features of rivers and coast lines. We have an educational trip to Daws Hall lined up, with a wide range of fun-filled activities with a chance to get in the River Stour itself to take measurements: more details to follow soon. For the second half of the term Space is our stimulus. We will be learning about the movement of the Earth, moon and other planets in relation to the Sun and look at the rotation of the Earth to explain how we get night and day.

Homework

Guided Reading: Set: Monday **Due:** Thursday the same week

Maths: Set: Monday **Due:** Following Monday

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their homework (which will be set via Google Classrooms/My Maths) and to ensure it is handed in on time. They should spend no longer than 40 minutes on each in addition to any reading. Also, we would very much appreciate you continuing to read with and to your child regularly as it really does make a difference especially to comprehension and developing vocabulary. We will also be promoting reading for pleasure throughout the year.



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 14th & Friday 15th September: First aid & lifesaving workshop

Tuesday 3rd October: 5SB River Trip

Wednesday 4th October: 5MB River Trip

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th October: Parents evenings

Monday 13th - 17th November: Anti Bullying week

Tuesday 12th December: Year 5 production

Guided Reading

Our weekly guided reading sessions are an opportunity to introduce children to a variety of engaging books and texts in a small group. Led by an adult, we develop understanding of vocabulary, deduction, inference and comprehension skills. The children will be set homework, usually via Google Classroom on Monday, which will be due on the Thursday of the same week. It is essential that this is completed as it will be referred to in subsequent sessions. If you would like to support your child with this task, reading and discussing the text with them would be beneficial.

Computing

Throughout the term, the children will continue to build their understanding of e-safety, with a focus on online reputation and conduct. They will learn programming skills to create games and explain simple algorithms.

Music

This term the children will be using glockenspiels and listening to and appraising a range of jazz songs. This term is also panto season so we will also be busy practising our songs, tuning up for our production.

PE

Our PE days are Mondays and Wednesdays. Please make sure PE kits are in school for these days and refer to the uniform policy for PE kit expectations. The children will refine their control and coordination across all areas and extend their understanding of attack and defence in football and tag rugby. They will build increasingly complex sequences of movements in gymnastics and dance.

DT

The children will learn about bascule bridges and their mechanisms before designing and creating their own models, incorporating an electrical motor.

English

Using the River Stories book as a stimulus, the children will develop their narrative writing skills, learning how to use more effective and engaging vocabulary choices to create atmosphere. Alongside this, the children will explore the use of similes and poetic devices before writing their own poem. Building on their learning in Year 4, they will revisit speech and the technical aspects of writing including punctuation and sentence structure.

RE

The focus this term will be on Christianity. We will explore and reason why people believe in God and knowing the different Gods for other religions. Then in the second half of the term we will discuss the Christmas story and why it is celebrated.

Life Skills

A key focus of life skills this term will be for the children to recognise emotions in themselves and others and learn strategies to respond to these. The children will develop their understanding of British laws, values and democracy. They will learn to recognise how to make healthy food choices as well as understand how the media can influence these choices.

Maths

The children will consolidate their understanding of core number facts and place value, extending this to work with decimals and increasingly larger numbers. Developing fluency with the written methods will be a key focus, with the introduction of long multiplication. We will use these core maths skills and apply them to real life situations and use a range of strategies to check that our answers are plausible.

Art

The children will explore different papier mache techniques before applying their understanding to create paper from pulp. Then, using the layering technique over various armatures, the children will create an alien, using the work of Dan Reeder as inspiration.

Science

Linking into the river topic, the children will revise the water cycle. They will explore how some solids, liquids and gases can be mixed and separated, through the use of filtering, sieving and evaporating. During the second half term, the focus moves to Space.