

St. Andrew's Newsletter Autumn 1 2024

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer holidays. The children have come back to school with a fabulous attitude and are already working hard.

Information

Children in years five and six are able to walk home from school unaccompanied once permission has been given by parents. Letters have been sent home- parents of year six please could you send in the slip to replace any permission given last year.

If your child uses Acorns, please could you ensure that your child knows if they are attending and if plans change, please inform the office. If a child is written in the book for after school sessions, they will not be allowed to walk home.

PE

Permission slips for swimming have already been sent home - thank you to those of you who have returned them promptly. As previously, children should come in their uniform on a swimming day and make sure they have a warm coat to wear once we leave Willowburn. If girls could not wear tights on a Thursday it makes it much easier to keep feet dry in the changing rooms as over shoes are not available. The children will also have cricket on a Friday so should come to school dressed in their PE kit on this day. Where possible the sessions will be outdoors so the children will need to be dressed appropriately according to the uniform policy. To ensure the children have their full entitlement to PE, they will also have a short yoga session each week- Year 5 on a Tuesday and Year 6 on a Wednesday. They should wear their uniform for these sessions but need to make sure they are comfortable and may want to wear trousers or bring leggings to put under dresses or skirts.

Homework

The children will be given homework on a Monday, and this should be handed in on a Friday morning. Spellings will put onto the school website on a Monday and will not be given as a paper copy. Please go to the St. Andrew's page on the website and look on the homework and spelling page. We have updated the suggested activities, and a list can be found in the front of homework books. The children are also expected to read to an adult three times a week and have this recorded in their reading records, a list of suggested questions to ask the children to help improve their comprehension can be found in the front of the

reading records. There is no set day for the children to change their reading books, they may choose a new one when they have finished their current book- this is the responsibility of the children. Finally, they should complete Times Tables Rockstars a minimum of three times a week.

Throughout the year there will be homework projects set - the first one will be this half term and details will follow shortly.

Curriculum

English- We will be reading the novel *Varjak Paw* by SF Said. This study of the novel will be used not only to work on comprehension skills, but will help us to develop our writing. We will be Creating descriptive pieces, non-chronological reports and poetry influenced by what we have read.

Maths- The children will be taught in two groups to allow them to cover the objectives appropriate to them. All the children will start with place value, looking at the makeup of different numbers, the values of the digits, rounding and negative numbers. We will then move on to the different number operations with year 5 concentrating on addition and subtraction and year 6 moving onto longer multiplication and division.

Science- The children will be looking at light. We will look at how light travels, what causes reflection and refraction and how we see light and the colour spectrum. There will be a mixture of investigation, research and practical work throughout the topic.

History- Our history topic this term is based around the Ancient Maya civilization. We will be finding out about where the Maya came from, what made their civilization so special, what the lifestyle of different types of people was like at that time and what happened to the people and their culture after the arrival of Europeans. The children will use and evaluate a variety of different sources to help them learn more. A list of suggested reads had also been included with the newsletter if children would like to find out more.

PSHE- This half term the children will be looking at digital wellbeing, thinking about how to stay safe online, how to behave appropriately when using different platforms and what to do if we do not feel comfortable with some online content.

RE- Our key question is "What does it mean to be Muslim in Britain today?" We will be looking at the key principles and beliefs in the Islamic faith and how

Muslims practise these. We will then think about how these ideas are incorporated into life in modern Britain.

Art- This half term the children will be thinking about pattern, texture and material and then use these ideas to design and plan a piece of weaving which they will then create using a loom. We will be linking this to traditional patterns used in the Maya culture.

Residential visit

There is a residential visit booked for May of 2025, which will be available to all children should they want to go. I am just working on a few final details and costings and hope to have a letter regarding the visit out to parents in the next week.

If you or your child has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Rebecca Hedley