



Class Newsletter

Woodpeckers - Autumn Term 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what is going to be a very busy and exciting first half term of the new school year! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and that we are all rested and ready to get learning!

Our main topic this half term is called 'Poles Apart'. We will be learning about Polar exploration, focussing in particular on Ernest Shackleton and his expedition on the ship 'Endurance'. We will be putting ourselves in the explorers' shoes and learning about the hardships they faced, and bravery they showed, with limited equipment.

In our English lessons we will be writing a biography of Shackleton from research done in class. We will also be studying a poem by Rudyard Kipling and learning about an Antarctic myth.

In Geography we will be studying the globe and its main features, from continents and oceans to the equator and the tropics — as well, of course, as the poles! In Art we will be looking at Kandinsky and thinking about his ideas of how mood and music can affect what we create.

Our P.E. this half term will be Wednesday afternoons with Andy, and on Thursday. Please ensure that your child has an outdoor and indoor P.E. kit in school on these days. Hannah Morgan will be taking music lessons with the class on a Wednesday also.

Year 5 children are expected to read at home daily, for around 20 minutes, recording this in their new reading record, and parents should sign once a week to confirm this. Pupils will also complete a weekly Maths and English/Topic task for their Home Learning. Homework times for Woodpeckers will be as follows - Maths will be given on a Tuesday, and needs to be in the same Thursday. English/Topic will be given on a Friday and needs to be in the following Tuesday. Please ensure your child keeps to these times so that I can keep on top of the marking! Spellings will be tested on a Friday and a new list given out the same day.

A couple of reminders: healthy snacks should be provided from home now that we are in Year 5, and permission slips can be filled in to allow your child to travel to and from home independently if you prefer.

I am really excited to begin teaching my new class and am looking forward to all the fun and great learning we will enjoy together.

Mr Sharp