

Dear Parents and Carers of Children in Class 5

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday. This letter is to let you know what we will be doing in class over the next few weeks leading up to Easter and how you can help your child.

In English we will be studying a piece of classic literature 'Tom Sawyer' written by the American writer, Mark Twain. Our reading targets will be addressed by studying this book and we will also be: writing diaries and letters in character; creating news reports based on events in the story; writing follow up chapters based on our predictions for the story line; writing police reports using a passive voice; finding out about the geography of the Mississippi river (where the story is based); turning narrative into play scripts; comparing the lives of the children in the book with our own experiences of childhood and debating corporal and capital punishment; to name but a few of the activities. In addition to this we will be continuing with spellings each week (please ensure that your child is practising and learning their spellings) and independent grammar activities.

We will have three main afternoon topic areas:

- In Science we will be studying electricity and light; looking at how we can represent circuits using symbols and circuit diagrams and investigating changes in circuits. Investigating how light travels; how we see light; how shadows are formed and changed; reflection and mirrors.
- In Geography we will be comparing North America and Great Britain concentrating on environmental regions; physical geographical differences; differences in land use patterns; economic differences and trade. We will be linking our geography with maths by looking at the time zones across America and by using the eight compass points.
- In design technology we will be; researching the history of time and clocks; investigating clock designs and how they are designed for purpose and individuals; generating our own designs for clocks; using a variety of tools to work with correx and other chosen materials and ultimately making a clock for a specific purpose. Maths will link with our design project because we will need to be able to measure length accurately and use protractors to measure angles for our clock faces.

The children will continue to have spellings each week, given out on a Monday and tested on Friday (it is important that spellings are learned to help with reading and writing) and usually a piece of maths homework which is given out on a Friday and expected back by the following Thursday, at the latest. In addition to this the children will have a piece of research homework to carry out based on life in America in the 1800's - details of this will be sent home very soon.

It is still extremely important that you continue to read and share books with your child, whether they are reading independently or particularly if they are struggling to read. It is also vital that your child learn their tables to 12 x 12 including knowing the division facts - this will help them to multiply numbers quickly, divide numbers quickly, spot number patterns, work out fractions of numbers, find percentages, work out areas of shapes etc. A good knowledge of times tables is so important for many other maths areas. Please also make sure that your child is able to read the time on analogue and digital clocks.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help.

Yours faithfully

Miss Lorna Burrow (Class 5 teacher)