

## Autumn Term

Dear Year 5 children and parents,

Welcome back! It's brilliant to see the children back in the classroom and school life returning to normal.

I am Miss Evans – a new face in the Wickhambrook family. Although I've only been at the school for a short time, the warm welcome and support has been heartening. The children have immersed themselves in the learning and expectations of Year 5 and I look forward to spending the year helping them on their journey.



## English

Reading is an integral part of school life and there will be many opportunities during the day for the children to become immersed in their texts. We are very fortunate in Hares class to have a great selection of reading books in our classroom that we can help ourselves to. Each day, there is time to choose a new book to take home and the opportunity to recommend and promote the book to others in the form of a short book review. This gives keen readers the chance to suggest texts they've enjoyed and help their friends choose a book that they won't want to put down!

This half term, we are excited to be reading Shackleton's Journey by William Grill as our core text – an extraordinary non-fiction text about Shackleton's expedition across Antarctica. Our next reading unit will centre around Emma Carroll's Secrets of a Sun King.

### Recommended reading books:

- There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Louis Sachar
- Wonder – R.J Palacio
- Journey to Jo'burg – Beverley Naidoo
- Who Let the Gods Out? – Maz Evans
- Holes – Louis Sachar
- The Silver Sword – Ian Serraillier

We have got several copies of each of these recommended reading books in school for the children to borrow if they wish.

Grammar is taught frequently as part of our English Writing lessons. Spelling is taught in addition to our English lessons, three times a week, where we learn and apply new spelling rules and practise recognising and correcting misspelled words. Spelling Shed is an excellent resource for practising spellings at home and will be a valuable tool in helping the children become more independent and confident with their spelling at school.

## Maths

This term in Maths, we will be revisiting and deepening our understanding of place value and arithmetic. We will also be learning more about statistics and revisiting perimeter and area in our measurement unit. We are keeping up with our times tables practise in the form of regular Times Tables Rockstars and benefit from weekly arithmetic lessons which focus identifying question types and selecting appropriate methods.

As always, children are encouraged to play on Times Tables Rockstars at home as much as possible to improve their speed and accuracy. They might also find resources on Topmarks helpful to support them in their learning in both English and Maths.

## Curriculum Subjects

In **Science**, our topic for the Autumn term is properties and changes of materials, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

### Properties and changes of materials

1. What properties do materials have and how do we use them?
2. What is a solution and what is a mixture?
3. How can we separate materials from a mixture?
4. How can we separate materials from a solution?
5. What changes are reversible?
6. What changes are irreversible?

In **Geography** this term our topic for this term is World countries, biomes and vegetation belts. These are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

### Locate world countries, biomes and vegetation belts

1. Where are the most important countries of the world?
2. Where would you find some of the major cities of the world?
3. What is a biome?
4. How do biomes change across the world?
5. What are the human characteristics that define Europe, North and South America?
6. What are the physical characteristics that define Europe, North and South America?

In **History**, our topic for the Autumn term is the Ancient Greeks, these are the 7 main questions our study will focus on:

### Ancient Greeks

1. Who were the Ancient Greeks and when did they rule?
2. What beliefs did the Ancient Greeks hold?
3. What was the difference between Athens and Sparta?
4. What was democracy like in Athens?
5. Why was theatre important to the Ancient Greeks?
6. What myths and fables did the Ancient Greeks create?
7. Why were the Olympic Games invented by the Ancient Greeks?

## Other subjects

We will cover a range of other curriculum subjects, such as Music, French, RE, PSHE, DT, Computing and Art on a rotating timetable. In Art this term, we are refining our drawing and painting skills and we will be doing some printmaking after half term. In Computing, we will be programming Micro:bits and learning about how we keep ourselves safe online. This term, we will be learning about healthy foods in DT and holidays in French.

## **PE routines & PE kit expectations**

For this term, Hares class will have **double PE** on a Wednesday. One of these sessions will be outdoors with Premier Sport and the second session will be gymnastics in the school hall.

Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for gymnastics, as they will get warm inside, then a tracksuit they can put on over the top as they move outdoors for their second session.

## **Playtimes**

Where possible all playtimes will be on the field, we have a wide range of new equipment for them to enjoy and the space for them to run around and have fun. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school. A coat for wet weather and waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes to avoid getting their uniform dirty. We have new welly racks for all classrooms, this will allow for us to store all outdoor shoes neatly.

## **Homework**

Homework will continue with the weekly requirements of spellings, times tables and reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

The children will be continuing with their Times Table Rockstars work this year. This was really successful last year, and the children seemed to really enjoy the interactive nature of the scheme. The children will do four timed tests at the beginning of each maths lesson and will have some time for the computer-based activities at a point in the week.

Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Hares Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Miss Evans