



Ranvilles

Year 5 – Spring Term 2

What will the children be learning?

The second half of the spring term will see Year 5 explore a wide variety of topics in our subjects. The second half of every term features a history unit and this time we'll be looking at the Tudor period. We'll examine historical sources to evaluate whether Henry VIII was a fair ruler or a tyrant, as well as the reasons behind his six marriages and the fate of Anne Boleyn. We'll also look at how records from the time can tell us about the daily lives of Tudor citizens. We'll combine computing and DT to design and create monitoring devices for small animals using CAD software and pocket-sized Micro:bit computers. In art we'll experiment with different media and methods to create self-portraits, culminating in a portrait using mixed-media of our choosing. In science we'll learn about the life cycles of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects, while in music we'll be listening to and playing the Blues to explore how music can convey mood. In French we'll learn some verbs that will help with explaining day to day routine and in RE our keyword this term is Salvation and how that relates to the Christian story.

English

Our English work in this half term begins with a creative piece describing a rainforest setting. For this we'll set the scene by reading the opening of 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell and then immerse ourselves in the sights and sounds of the rainforest to get our creative juices flowing. We will then take some of the creatures we find in that setting and use 'The Book of Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris to explore how we can write about them poetically. Our class novel for this half term will remain Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce as we follow Liam's adventure in space to its conclusion.

How to help at home

Our homework routine runs from Monday to Monday as usual. New homework booklets will go home in the first week of the term. The regular homework tasks are as follows:

Reading: Regular independent reading (four times a week for a house point, five times for two). It would be especially great if you could listen to our child read to you, or a sibling, and ask questions about the text to check their understanding. We have Reading Masters booklets that will help with this – just ask if you've mislaid the one given in Year 3.

Spelling: Regular practice either using the sheet in the homework booklet or Spelling Shed. Two house points for five or more sessions a week.

Maths

Our maths work will extend our autumn learning. We'll learn the formal method of long multiplication so we can multiply by two or even three-digit numbers. We'll then extend our autumn work on fractions by going into decimals in more detail, also working in thousandths. This will help us to compare fractions and decimals, which will allow us to understand percentages and how the three relate.

Maths: Weekly maths challenge in the maths homework booklet and regular practise on TT Rockstars to develop or secure tables knowledge. Two house points for engaging in both tasks.

Please photograph the homework booklets to show engagement and upload to Google classroom. The websites and passwords needed for all of this are in your Dojo message thread, sent in September. Please also don't forget our Sora eLibrary, which contains thousands of age-appropriate books. Information for accessing this is in the same password document in your Dojo message thread.

Other information

PE: Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. This half term our topics will be badminton on Mondays indoors, and tag rugby on Wednesdays outdoors on the field. It helps us hugely if on PE days ear rings aren't worn so we don't have to worry about taking them out, and long hair is tied back. These are both statutory safety requirements for school PE lessons.

Library: The school library is open every morning break time for children to change books as and when they need to. Children still learning to read also have access to our separate book band library and our allotted time there is on Wednesday mornings. Children on book bands are encouraged to change books weekly, keeping one in school for afternoon reading and one at home for home use.