

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a restful Summer and are adjusting back into the school routines!

The Autumn Year 5/6 topic is the Ancient Egyptians, and we will be studying both the geography of Egypt and its historical legacy, including the many gods and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

During science lessons the children will be learning about both forces and materials, with a particular focus on the work of Galileo and gravity.

English starts with a focus on fantasy stories, and written work based around the book "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell. We will move on to writing explanations before half term, and then will focus on; poetry, non-chronological reports and setting descriptions prior to Christmas.

The children in Kingfisher Class will swim up to half term combined with sessions of rugby coaching, and then after the break they will play basketball alongside practicing their gymnastic skills. For this half term only, both PE sessions are on a Monday due to the swimming input. After half term, one session will move to a Friday.

In music this term's unit features an R'n'B-inspired arrangement of a traditional spiritual, sung in unison and three-part harmony. In addition to singing the song, comparing versions, writing new lyrics, and creating their own accompaniment ideas, pupils will learn about the social and historical context of the civil rights movement in the USA. After half term, they will be working towards this year's Christmas Concert and church service.

In art, children will research artists Frida Kahlo and Megan Players, appreciating their differences. They will use drawing skills including line, shade and tone for facial features and finally use these to create a portrait in the style of local artist Megan Players. In DT they will make aprons using a range of sewing techniques.

As in prior years, children will be expected to read at home for at least 4 times a week for 20 minutes minimum. I would ask parents to listen and discuss what the children have read with them at points during the week, and sign their reading records to show this task has been completed. An additional break will be awarded for children with 4 signatures in their reading records which have been obtained during the week.

Work will also be set on the Doodle platform which children will be expected to complete to remain in the 'green zone.' Some of this will be specific assignments which will run alongside learning in the class, and some will be based on their own personal assessments

I am looking forward to a successful year, with all the exciting events which occur in Year 5 & 6. I am nearly always available in the playground after school should you have a query, and can also be contacted via the Dojo Platform.

Looking forward to an exciting year,

Gary Brown

## **HOW CAN WE HELP OUR CHILDREN?**

Set aside time for them to read on a daily basis

If you have a spare day, and fancy a drive there is what looks like a brilliant exhibition at Dorchester Museum – info here;

<https://www.tutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk/>

Remind the children they can access the google classroom at home, by using their school log in.

Try further research into areas being studied in class such as; Galileo, Frida Kahlo and Bob Marley.

Enjoy having family time, down time and most importantly sleep!