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Headteacher: Ms Alison Marsh

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

### YEAR 5/6 SPRING TERM OVERVIEW

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break with your families. We would like to thank you for your gifts and kind words at the end of last year; they really mean a great deal. We hope you are all well rested and ready for another exciting term.

#### Topic

This term our Topic is Extreme World. During this, we will be comparing places, environments, weather events, people and cultures from around the globe. Our topic work will link in closely with our work in English based around Ernest Shackleton as well as have some links to work in art and science.

#### Maths

Year 6 pupils will be revising skills across the whole curriculum to ensure they have them secure before their transition to secondary school. However, for both Years 5 and 6 there will be a particular focus on: Division, Fractions, Ratio, Proportion, Percentages & Decimals. **Please make sure your child regularly practices their times tables (5 minutes a day)** and even the inverse of their tables up to 12 X 12 until they know them through and through – this will help them immeasurably with the entire maths curriculum and more advanced problem solving.

#### English

**Reading:** Year 6 will be reading *Northern Lights* by Phillip Pullman and Year 5 will be reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (5JC) and *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo (5ZM) as their whole class books. **Many schools have stated that pupils benefit from and really like to have their own copy of the book to use in class lessons.** This is optional; however, if this is something you are able to provide that would be fantastic (used copies can be bought through Amazon for around £3.00). There's also the option of donating the book to school for future use at the end of the unit – of course this is also optional! Guided reading will continue and children will also have a book of their own selection. They should also have **their reading diary that is to be used by parents to record 10 minutes of reading at home each day.**

**Writing:** This term, pupils in both Years 5 and 6 will be covering the same English units for writing, many linked to our Extreme World topic but also through most other subjects. These will cover a range of text types and culminate in Big Write sessions. The core book used to inspire writing this half term is *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill.

**Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar (SPaG):** Year 5/6 pupils are expected to begin understanding the entire primary curriculum for SPaG. As such, it is first and foremost embedded within all reading and writing activities across the whole curriculum. We also teach SPaG explicitly, as a separate lesson, for 15 - 30 minutes, up to four times a week. Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar are essential to being a successful writer and as such **we request that parents support their child in learning the meanings and spellings of words on the statutory word lists for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.** These are attached to this letter.

#### Science

In Science, Years 5 and 6 will both continue to take part in the Polar Explorer Programme. Year 6 will also be learning about Light. As part of our Primary Science Quality Mark course, the school is trying to encourage more parents, community members and professionals who work in STEM related careers to visit our classes.

#### Festivals & Special Days

There will also be a range of special days and weeks to celebrate over the coming terms, including Shrove Tuesday, Mothering Sunday, World Book Day, Book Week & Science Week.

## Homework

It is important that we support our pupils in their transition to secondary school where 3 to 6 hours of homework per week is normal. Years 5 & 6 homework will consist of a maths, spelling & grammar homework each week on which they must spend a minimum of 30 minutes. They are also expected to practise their times tables for 5 minutes per day, read for 10 minutes per day (recorded in their diary) & ensure they are confident with the statutory spelling lists provided. As an extra challenge, we will also provide longer projects from time to time. If you would like to challenge your child further, links to a range of educational resources can be found on our school website.

## Parent helpers

We would love to have some parent volunteers **come into school to listen to children read for 20 minutes** as often as you are able or to offer expertise such as STEM ambassador visits, specialisms linked to any parts of the curriculum or perhaps even running a club.

## Dates for your diaries

- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – Bring in some junk materials to design & make polar research vessels e.g. clean plastic milk bottles, containers, tubes etc
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** – Star Assembly & International Food Day – share your culinary delights!
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 6 at Matthew Arnold Performance
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term holiday
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Book Week (World Book day is March 1<sup>st</sup>); 6LK Class Assembly
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Textile Collection
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – 6JP Cake Sale
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Science Week & Science Fair (more information to follow); 6JP Class Assembly/Star Assembly (Days TBC)
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Royal Institute of Science – KS2 show at 13:30 then Community Show at 18:00 (*more information will follow but this will be an event for our whole school community*). **It is also SEN Reviews Week.**
- **27/28/29<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents' Evenings
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Mini-Fete
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Star Assembly

## Reminders

### PE

The children take part in at least one PE session every week but often more in the summer weather. For this they will need a PE kit consisting of a t-shirt, black shorts, jogging bottoms and trainers are essential. Please could we encourage you to leave your child's PE kit in school for the term so they always have their kit. A reminder that for safety reasons long hair should be tied back and jewellery should not be worn in school.

## Lost property

Our lost property box has grown over the last few weeks and we are unable to return missing items because the items have not been named. Please can we ask you to name **ALL** clothing (school uniform, PE kit, forest school kit) so that we can return any lost items to you.

## Newsletter & Classlist

The weekly newsletter and all other letters are available to download from the school website. **Please make sure you do** as this often contains important information & reminders as well as being a celebration of what our pupils have achieved. Please can we urge you to join class list so you are kept informed about what is happening in school. Go to <http://www.classlist.com> to register.

We hope you find the information above informative and helpful. Please check the parents' noticeboard and the school website for additional information.

Thank you for your continuing support.

*The Upper KS2 Team*

*Jason Pearce, Gawain Little, Louise Griffiths, Zaira Mughal & Jules Christie*