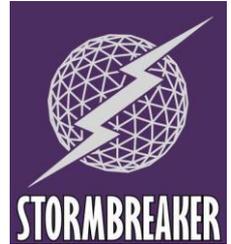


Year 5 and 6 Newsletter

We hope you have all had a good break. We've had a good start to the year already and are looking forward to a successful and fun year!

Topics:

In English this term, we will start by looking at the theme 'A Double Life' and will start by reading 'Stormbreaker'. This will be compared with other texts and extracts such as 'Anitodote', Jekyll and Hyde and some extracts from the original Ian Fleming 'James Bond' series. The children will be writing job applications to become spies, designing their own 'teenage spy gadgets' and writing spy narratives.



After half term, we will study the theme 'A long way from home' with the main text being 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. Alongside this, we will be looking at a variety of Windrush poetry and also a picture book named 'The Arrival'.

Our topic this term is '**Caribbean Connections**' as part of this unit we will learn map and atlas skills and then look at issues which affect some of the Caribbean islands, such as volcanoes, earthquakes and the banana economy-linking to Fair Trade. In our food technology and art unit we will make Caribbean food and use pen and ink to draw studying Caribbean artists.



In Science, we will be studying Living Things and their Habitats including classifications and characteristics.

Computing will begin with E-safety, followed by computational thinking and programming using Scratch where the children will make their own Caribbean quizzes.

In PE, we will be beginning the year with orienteering and team problem solving games and multi-skills, where children will build up their agility, balance and strategy skills.

Class Texts:

This year in English, we will be reading a range of class texts including 'Stormbreaker', 'Coming to England', 'The Giant's Necklace' and 'Framed'. We appreciate that some children will have read these already but if they haven't, please can you encourage them not to do so in order to keep the plots unknown.

Homework:

As a school, we have recently reviewed the way we set homework. Children in Year 5/6 will now have question books for them to take home. We will be setting Maths one week and English the following week which will practise skills that they have learnt in class. Homework will be handed out on Wednesday and due back on Monday. We will not be able to replace these if they get lost so please can you ensure that your children look after them carefully. In the back of these books are the answers. If you feel like your children may have a tendency to rely on answers rather than completing it independently, then feel free to cut them out and use them to help your children.



As well as homework, there will also be weekly spellings (set on Friday and tested on Friday) and please can any unknown times tables be learnt. Reading is so important in order to develop a range of literary skills and children should be reading a **range** of genres and authors at least five times a week (and ideally once out loud). We will also be sending home short passages of texts for children to be reading at home. From time to time, there may be extension activities for some or all children.

Tutors:

We appreciate that several of your children will have tutors outside of school. We are grateful for all of the hard work that they do supporting your child. Can we just ask that they don't use any past SATs papers as we visit this later in the academic year and use these for addressing potential gaps in knowledge.

Year 6 information evening including Calshot:

On **10th October (6-7pm)** we will be holding an information evening about Year 6. This will include: the structure of the year; SATs (and their impact); the curriculum; various other aspects of the year. It will also be an information evening for the upcoming trip for Calshot. It would be great to see you there.

Finally, we wish that this year will be a happy and successful one for your child. We love hearing from parents throughout the year so please feel free to email, call or arrange to come in to meet with your class teacher or Mrs Smith at any time if you have any questions, concerns, changes or things to celebrate.

We look forward to a great year ahead!

Mrs Smith and the Year 5 / 6 team



Dates for your diary Years 5 and 6

Saturday 13th October – Autumn clean up day 9:30 – 3pm (come anytime – includes free lunch!)

- 10th October- Year 6 Information and Calshot Meeting 6 – 7 pm
- 17th October- Parents Evening and Roving Bookshop (Bookshop all day)
- 18th October- Parents Evening
- W/C 12th November- Calshot residential
- 7th December- FODs Disco
- 13th December- Open Afternoon
- 19th December – Christmas Lunch

