



## Year 5 and 6 Newsletter

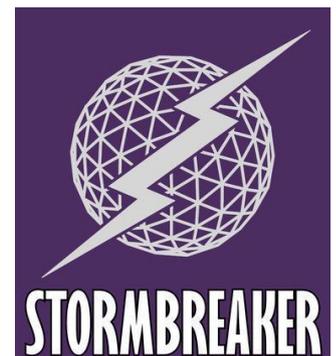
Autumn 2020



We are really enjoying having everyone back in school after what seems like a long time. We intend to teach a broad and balanced curriculum but will also be spending some time initially ascertaining gaps from the previous year and planning in how to fill these. We will also be spending more of our day doing Personal, Social and Health education focusing on wellbeing.

### 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 Flemming James Bond series. The children will be writing job applications to become spies, designing their own 'teenage spy gadgets' and writing spy narratives.



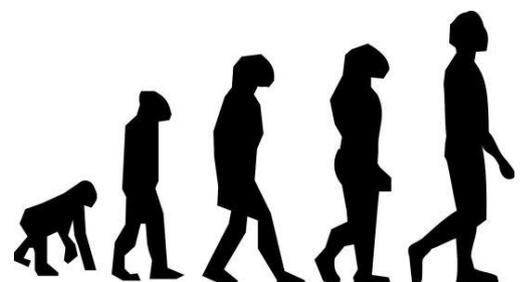
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After half term, we will study the theme 'A long way from home' with the main text being 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. Alongside this, we will be looking at a variety of 'Windrush' poetry and also a picture book named 'The Arrival'.

Our **Geography** 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 Evolution and Inheritance exploring how living things have changed and adapted over time.

**Computing** will be cryptographers where will be code breaking and using computational thinking skills then we will use a range of software to create geometric patterns in art.



In **PE**, we will begin the year with some map based orienteering skills and then develop our attacking and defending skills with invasion games.

## **Class Texts:**

This year in English, we will be reading a range of class texts including 'Stormbreaker', 'Coming to England', 'Holes', '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 your children not to do so in order to keep the plots unknown.



## **Homework:**

We will be setting Maths homework 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 the homework books if they get lost so please can you ensure that your children look after them carefully. Homework pages will be posted on the website so you can refer to this if your children are unsure.

As well as homework, there will also be weekly spellings (set on Friday and tested on Friday) and times table booklets which will also go home every Friday and collected in on a Friday. Reading is so important in order to develop a range of English 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 Calshot residential:**

The residential visit to Calshot was due to happen in November, however the current guidelines do not allow schools in the UK to take part in any residential trips. Although this guidance is constantly under review, it is very unlikely to change before November. As we value the residential visits so highly, we are hoping to move this visit (in some form) into the summer term. We will let you know when we have more information.

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 contact your class teacher (via the office) at any time if you have any questions, concerns, changes or things to celebrate.

We look forward to the year ahead,

The Year 5/6 team

Helping your child at home New reading diaries have gone out and should have made their way home, please encourage your child to bring their reading diary in every day. They are an important record of their reading and are often used in guided reading and English sessions. Listening to your children read is really important, even for confident readers, as discussing the book helps to improve their understanding. Children need to be practicing their spellings and also be learning the rule.

For maths, please encourage children to practise their tables (as they are easily forgotten) Practising them in a variety of ways to encourage speed and accuracy will make maths lessons easier for your child.