



Class KS Newsletter Spring 1st 2019

Monday 7th January

Dear Parents/Carers of Class KS,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for the new term.

This Term's Learning: Off With Her Head!

Let's travel back in time to meet the terrifying Tudors. During this half-term, we'll meet a very important figure from history who will give us a problem to solve. Online research will help us to write biographies about influential people of the period and we'll use source materials to create a Tudor timeline. Tudor portraits will provide us with the inspiration to create royal paintings and we'll compose Tudor music. Our geography skills will help us to compare maps of Tudor London to present day London and plot Anne Boleyn's journey to her execution. We will learn more about Henry's life, his marriages and his break from the Roman Catholic Church.

To 'hook' the children into the topic they have taken part in a Tudor murder mystery this afternoon. The 'outcome' of the topic will be a Tudor-themed day in school on Monday 11th February. (There will be more details to follow, however you may like to start thinking about a costume. There are lots of good DIY ideas on the internet.)

On Fridays, Year 5 and 6 will be taught in year groups to focus on methods for written arithmetic, spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as reading skills.

Home Learning:

Year 5:

- ❖ As in previous half-terms, home learning books will be given out on a Friday and will be expected to be handed in by Wednesday. A topic sheet will be stuck in your child's home learning book. Children will be asked to choose a set number of activities to complete over the half term. A copy of the week's maths and literacy activities will be also be stuck in the home learning book.

Year 6:

- ❖ Your child will receive their SATs revision workbooks this week (please see separate letter for further details including payment). Each Friday, children will be given a list of pages to complete by the following week. Your child will be given the answer book so that they can self-mark. There will also be a weekly spelling test on Fridays.
- ❖ We will be holding a Monday lunchtime 'drop-in' session if any children want to go over their homework. In addition to this, we will be holding a morning 'year 6 club' twice a week focusing on maths and literacy. There is no need to sign up - just turn up! Please see the timetable that has been emailed out for details on what is being covered each week.
- ❖ Please that there is a SATs/Hayling Island meeting for both children and parents on Wednesday 30th January at 6.00pm in the school hall.

Reading:

- ❖ There will be a weekly guided reading lesson where the children will have the opportunity to read and discuss a text with an adult and their peers in a group. Children will read 1:1 with an adult as regularly as possible. In addition to this, children will read to themselves on a daily basis.
- ❖ Our class book this half-term is 'Treason' by Berlie Doherty.

General:

- ❖ Children come into school and leave via the library door.
- ❖ Your child will need the following stationery: a black handwriting pen, a red biro, pencil, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, dry-wipe whiteboard pen, ruler and colouring pencils. Pencil cases are to be kept in trays, therefore needed to be appropriately-sized.
- ❖ Our PE days are now Monday and Tuesday - please ensure children have the correct kit and footwear. (However, sometimes there are changes to the timetable so PE kits need to be in school all the time)
- ❖ No jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons
- ❖ Children may wear a watch and a pair of small silver/gold stud earrings for school - no bracelets
- ❖ No makeup (including tinted lip balm and nail varnish) is to be worn
- ❖ Hair is to be tied up (with an appropriate coloured and sized hairband) at all times during the school day.
- ❖ Your child should bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable to enjoy during story-time.
- ❖ Your child will also need a named bottle filled with water every day.
- ❖ We will check and sign diaries every Friday. As many of you may be aware, parents/carers signing the diary is a requirement at secondary school so it is important to get into this routine now. Your child should be asking you to sign the diary before Wednesday.

Key Dates:

- Wednesday 9th January - Y5/6 Netball
- Thursday 17th January - Sports-themed day with special lunch (details to follow)
- Friday 18th January - PTA Downham's Got Talent auditions
- Wednesday 23rd January - KS2 Swimming gala
- Wednesday 30th January - Y6 SATs/Hayling Island meeting (children and parents to attend)
- Tuesday 5th February - Y5/6 Orchestra rehearsal
- Tuesday 5th February - Chinese New Year themed day with special lunch
- Wednesday 6th/Thursday 7th February - Downham's Got Talent final - 6pm school hall
- Monday 11th February - Y5/6 Tudor themed day in school (more details to follow)
- Wednesday 13th February - Y5/6 Music Rehearsal at Brightside
- Wednesday 13th February (4.30-7pm) and Thursday 14th February (3.30-6pm) - Parents' Evening
- Thursday 14th February - KS2 Cross Country competition
- Friday 15th February - Staff training day

Y5 Swimming lessons - summer term (more details to follow)

Y6 SATs week: Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May

Y6 Hayling Island: Monday 3rd June - Friday 7th June

Y6 Play - Wednesday 10th July (6.00pm)

Y6 Leavers' Service - Wednesday 24th July (9.15am)

You can find me on the playground every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.45am should you need a quick chat. I am also available directly after school (clubs/meetings permitting) If you require a longer meeting with me to discuss concerns or issues regarding your child please make an appointment to see us by contacting the school office or sending me a quick email. Please note that my email address should only be used for brief enquiries and is not an effective way to address concerns or issues. I will aim to respond to short emails within the hours of 3.30pm and 6.00pm weekdays. Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Suters

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