Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you’ve enjoyed the holiday and you have had some opportunities for quality family time.

Curriculum

This week the class will be starting their new topic exploring the Maya Civilisation; asking the question ‘Who are the Maya?’ Attached to this letter are the areas we will be covering, split into each individual subject. This is a totally new topic for the children, which they won’t have studied before, so there may be lots of questions at home. There are plenty of websites, where you or the children can find information. We will be covering not only subject knowledge about the Maya people, but using maps and atlases to identify British and major World Rivers and taking an in depth look at how rivers are formed and develop. This topic is a good resource for lots of non-fiction writing and use of our research skills.

The children have been given a new timetable for their learning packs. There aren’t really any changes from the last half term, except for Gym on Tuesdays and Games on Thursdays and we will stick to the timetable, unless we have Sports Festivals or extra whole school activities. Please could you make sure that your child always has their correct PE Kit in school. There have been a few occasions where children haven’t had shorts for Gym, outdoor clothing or have complained that their trainers don’t fit, so do check that they have everything.

Reading records are checked weekly and the children will continue to read in a group with an adult. It is down to the children to tell us when they need a new book and the children know that they should record any of their reading in their reading diaries. Please encourage the children to record their reading so we can keep our records up to date.

Homework

There is a change for Homework this half term. The children will still have a spelling test on Monday and we are still checking that the children know and understand thoroughly the Spellings lists in their Learning packs.

Maths Homework is given out by Mrs Sutherland which is to be returned on Wednesdays. Some children are still working on their levels for Times Table Tuesday, so will still need help with this - thank you for your support.

On Fridays, the children will be sent home with a Literacy task. This could be connected to our Topic to encourage their writing **or** be a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar exercise **or** be a reading comprehension. The children will be given a week to complete it and the answers/work will be shared in class. We will again be emphasising that the children need to complete their homework to a Year 5 standard. They do enjoy sharing their homework with the rest of the class and love the recognition they receive from their peers, as well as from us, for a strong piece of work. The children are aware of our expectations and that any homework completed, is supposed to complement the work done in school. We realise that it is sometimes difficult to dedicate free time to homework but ask if you could remind your child about basic rules of presentation and encourage them to complete it to the best of their ability. Please let us know if you have any problems, as we will be monitoring closely the quality of homework and those children who complete homework on time.

Do not hesitate to contact us by email if you haven’t managed to catch up with us during school hours.

Regards,

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