

**Year 5 – Autumn 2 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. It’s been great to see everybody back in school this week. The children have all come back in smiling, which is absolutely lovely.

This half term we’re are going to have a few themed weeks, including a focus on Sikhism in RE and another French focus week later in December. The other topics covered this half term are below:

**The Amazon -** Our main focus this half term is on the Amazon. We’ll find out more about this amazing place, understanding the threats it faces and the dilemmas posed for the people of South America who have this richly diverse and abundant resource in their countries.

**Maths** – the whole class made a fantastic start last term with place value, addition and subtraction. We are now moving on to multiplication and division – including understanding factors, multiples and prime numbers – already the class have got off to a great start – however, it is clear that those children who aren’t confident with their times tables have an additional hurdle to climb in order to complete multiplication and division questions.

Please encourage your child to keep using TT Rockstars – it’s fun and it’s free.

**Reading** – ‘Once you learn to read, you will always be free’ Frederick Douglas.

I ask that each child read their book 4 times per week as a minimum. The more they read, the better their vocabulary, spoken English, spellings and writing will become – not to mention how reading also fuels the imagination.

**Writing** – This half term we’re going to focus on recounts, writing to persuade, and short stories. We are using Journey To The River Sea (a modern day classic), and The Great Kapok Tree as our two main books to support this.

**Science** – Our other key focus is ‘Forces’, from gravity to buoyant force, friction to air resistance as well as looking how simple machines make tough tasks simpler.

**PE** - Monday’s continues to be swimming this half term, and gymnastics will be on a Friday.

**Parents’ Evening –** will be week commencing 22nd Novermber – more info to follow.

Lastly, we put a lot of time and discussion into our ‘learning mind-sets’. We have discussed how ‘learning’ is all about ‘practiced remembering’. This term we will also be focused on meta-cognition – which is how we recognise and organise our own thought processes. This very much puts children in the driving seat and helps them to understand that they are responsible for their own learning journeys.

As always, if you have any concerns, or questions – please get in touch.

Best Wishes and Stay Safe

Carl Bown

Year 5 Teacher