



St Mark's CE Primary School

'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'

Year 5 Newsletter

Spring 1

This half term the children will be learning about Antarctica and trying to answer the question, **"Why is Antarctica So Cool?"** During this topic, they will investigate where Antarctica is located, what types of animals and plants live there, how animals are able to survive in the climate, create biographies of famous explorers and also design a flashlight to help an explorer on their journey.

English

In English this half term, the children will be studying the books, **"Tell Me a Dragon"** and **"Dragonology"** to link with our Science topic looking at how different animals begin their lives.

They will firstly investigate poetry and how we can use similes and metaphors to create poetic imagery. After that we will focus on the skills needed to create non-chronological reports detailing different types of dragons and finally we will be investigating and writing a newspaper report.

We will also be continuing with our spelling program called Read, Write Inc. Spelling throughout this half term to support your child's development of phonics and spelling

Reading

We continue to recognise that reading is not always an easy task at home, but must again stress the great impact this has on all areas of learning. Thank you for your commitment with this. To celebrate children's reading, all children that are able to read at least 5 times a week at home are entered into the Star Readers prize draw every Friday for their chance to win a book to take home.

In school, all children will continue to have daily guided reading sessions, as well as individual readers with the class teacher or support staff.

Homework

Homework is given out on a Friday and expected back by the following Wednesday. Children have several choices to choose from with all needing to be completed by the end of the half term.

Maths

This half term, the children of Year 5 will continue to build their understanding of Multiplication and Division strategies.

To support this, the children will be given weekly times table tests to support and monitor their progress and retention of this knowledge. Children will also be expected to log-on to Times Table Rockstars in class and, if possible, at home. This supports the recall of number facts, which is crucial for our learning in Fractions.

Throughout this half term, the children will focus on securing their understanding and use of the four operations, applying these in open-ended problems. From this, they will then focus on the interpretation of graphs.

Science

For our Science topic this half term we will be asking the question, **"How different will you be when you are as old as your grandparents?"**

Throughout this topic, we will be looking at how people change as they get older and how we can stay fit and healthy.



P.E.

For both 5K and 5J, P.E. is on a **Wednesday – this is Swimming.**

A separate letter has been sent home with acceptable swimwear. Any child that has long hair (boys and girls) a swimming cap is required. For those with short hair, a swimming cap is not needed.

The school has had excellent achievements in swimming so far and we know that Year 5 will have great success in the pool too.