



**MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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**Headteacher:** Mrs S Clarke

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful festive period at home with your loved ones. Year 5 have made a good start to the year and are raring to get cracking with our new topic of 'PEACE & CONFLICT.' This is predominantly a history-based topic, which makes me very excited. We will be doing all kinds of activities linked to Anglo Saxons and Vikings and where possible will also link this with our work in reading and writing. In this topic letter I shall aim to outline our programme of study throughout the Spring Term and aim to clarify my expectations regarding homework and other routines. This term we have two different groups having Forest School led by Mrs Clarke on Thursday afternoons, as well as swimming in the mornings. As a result of this Tuesday will be our only PE day for the Spring Term. The children will continue to have Aspire for PE on the Tuesday afternoon along with Madame Byers for French. On Wednesday morning, Mrs Alden will lead handwriting, RE and maths.

Firstly, here is a brief outline of our areas of study:

- **Science:** Physics based – Earth & Space followed by a unit of work which is biology focussed on life cycles of different types of animal.
- **Design Technology:** Using CAMS to create a mechanism and a working project – a Viking longship with moving parts.
- **Art:** Looking at seascapes and the works of JMW Turner in particular. Painting, brush strokes and colour mixing skills – evaluating works of art and reflecting on mood/atmosphere.
- **Religious Education:** Understanding Christianity – Completing our Old Testament Stories from Samuel to Jesus. Plus looking at the Tawhid in relation to Islam.
- **Computing:** Our new software of Purple Mash – following Unit 5.1 Coding, algorithms and debugging
- **Music:** Charanga units 'How does music connect us with our past?' This Unit of Work celebrates a wide range of musical styles and includes Listening, Singing, Playing, Composing and Performing.
- **Physical Education:** Aspire will be running these lessons on Tuesday afternoons and the first sport we are studying is Tennis.

In addition, **maths** and **literacy** lessons will be taught **daily** (linked to our topic work when appropriate). In class we are currently reading RJ Palacio's book "Wonder" and will shortly begin exploring some complimentary texts alongside this one.

We aim to hear the children read once a week, more with certain children. This is usually done by our fantastic volunteers – Beth & Mr. Thomas, as well as our lovely teaching assistants, Miss Lewis & Miss Marsh. As well as other opportunities to practise reading skills through our work in class. When you hear your child read at home, please remember to write in the yellow homework diary. I ask that all children are heard by an adult at least once a week as this also can aid their overall understanding of a higher-level text. I have also asked the children to write in their log book if they read to themselves at home also, as many are very independent. I offer house points for those who have read at least five times a week, however, I will only dish out the house points if an adult has also signed the homework diary!

The children will have regular spellings and times tables to learn – these are set weekly. Spellings are given out on Monday and tested on Friday, while times-tables are tested every Thursday.

H/W	SET	DUE/TESTED ON
<b>Spelling</b>	<i>Monday AM</i>	<i>Friday AM</i>
<b>X Tables</b>	<i>Thursday AM</i>	<i>Thursday AM</i>
<b>Reading Diaries Checked</b>	<i>Monday PM</i>	<i>Monday PM</i>

We are looking into the possibility of trips linked to our overall topic and will keep you posted regarding these in due course. I would like to remind you all that the best way to support your child at home with the learning is reading lots and encouraging use of online games such Times Tables Rock Stars. Playing Times Tables Rock Stars daily (even if only for 10mins) according to educational research has a very positive impact on their arithmetical recall of times tables facts.

By the time you receive this letter we will have completed the second week of term already! If there any further queries I am very happy to answer these and can usually be found in the classroom at the end of the day. I wish you a very safe and productive Spring Term and can assure you that we are ALL working very hard in class to prepare the children for next year. We are doing this in a way that still nurtures the children’s personal pride, wellbeing and confidence.

With best wishes,



Mr. S. Ind