



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr M Jefferson

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

How lovely to be back in the swing of things now! Year 5 have had a very hardworking start to the year and I have been impressed by their thirst for knowledge and good work ethic. There have been a few achy hands at the end of the day with the increased amount of writing and rigour. On the whole however, they have made a very good start to the year, so thank you to both parents and pupils for that. In this topic letter I shall aim to outline our programme of study throughout the Autumn Term and aim to clarify my expectations regarding homework and other routines. Our topic for this term is 'Journeys', which covers a great deal of areas including one of my favourites, World War II.

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

- **Science:** Animals including Humans – looking at different life cycles; including understanding life processes and growth and change with Mrs Hatch. Then moving onto look at forces and motion with Mr Ind.
- **Geography:** Looking at Europe in more detail – mapping the changing borders through WWII. Including locational geography based on land use patterns and how places have changed. Also exploring important/famous landmarks and population density.
- **History:** Understanding the journeys different people went on throughout WW2 from evacuees to troops and the military, including Kindertransport and some local history.
- **Design Technology:** Creating a prototype cardboard box for a gas mask using knowledge of nets plus textiles work reusing and recycling materials to be thrifty in war time in order to create a hand sewn Christmas decoration.
- **Art:** Blitz artwork including use of brusho dye, charcoal and silhouette work. Plus, a study on Henry Moore the sculptor and further looking at his underground charcoal and sketch work.
- **Religious Education:** Understanding Christianity – What does it mean if God is holy and loving? & How does the tawhid create a sense of belonging to the Muslim community?
- **Computing:** Exploring Internet Safety and the importance of practising being safe and secure online. We will cover the SMART protocols as well as looking at the importance of security, passwords and phishing.
- **Music:** Charanga units covering Livin' on a Prayer (yes, we really are doing some Bon Jovi!) Plus some individual lessons with our resident musical expert, Mr Jefferson!
- **Physical Education:** A mixture of indoor gymnastics with me on a Friday and invasion games with Aspire on Tuesdays.

In addition, **maths** and **literacy** lessons will be taught **daily** (linked to our topic work when appropriate). We aim to hear the children read once a week, more with certain children. This is usually done by our fantastic volunteer – Mr. Thomas, as well as our lovely teaching assistants, Miss Lewis and 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 to show this is truthful reading!

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. There will be additional homework tasks set weekly. I will try to set these on Seesaw and also as a paper copy so that you can choose which option you prefer. Children should have already gone home with their Seesaw QR codes and login details – please do ask if you require another one.

H/W	SET	DUE/TESTED ON
Spelling	Monday	Friday
X Tables	Thursday	Thursday
Additional Homework	Wednesday	Monday (Tuesday as a last resort!)

We are looking into the possibility of trips linked to our overall topic and will keep you posted regarding these in due course. Shortly, I will also be sending out a quick guide to Year 5 with some handy tips about how best to support your child at home with the learning we are doing in school. Playing Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Frame daily (even if only for 10mins) is my top tip at the moment!

The children will have two P.E. lessons per week. They will work with the Aspire coaches on Tuesdays and do gymnastics with me on Fridays.

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 Autumn 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