



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 29th January 2024

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 'FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.' This is predominantly a geography, art and DT based topic. We will be doing all kinds of activities linked to mythical creatures 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 Alden. The children will continue to have Aspire for PE on the Tuesday afternoon along with Madame Byers for French. On Monday afternoons, Mrs Hatch will continue to lead RE and art.

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

- **Science:** Physics based – Earth and Space; followed by Human life cycles.
- **Geography:** Locational Geography including the countries of Europe, a study of climate zones and biomes.
- **Design Technology:** Evaluating, planning, designing and creating a board game in class using a wide range of DT skills
- **Art:** Looking at dragons, scales and their eyes including use of sketching pencils and then onto sculpture and clay work.
- **Religious Education:** Understanding Christianity – What would Jesus do? Alongside, continuing our stories from the Old Testament.
- **Computing:** Our new software of Purple Mash – following Unit 5.1 Coding, algorithms and debugging
- **Music:** Charanga unit: 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi!
- **Physical Education:** Aspire will be running these lessons on Tuesday afternoons looking at Volleyball and on Fridays we are doing OAA [Outdoor and Adventurous Activities].

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 assistant, Miss Lewis. 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. We will go back to setting additional homework tasks weekly on SATs Companion to avoid the over reliance on paper copies – the dog cannot eat SATs Companion! Children should already have their SATs Companion login details – please do ask if you require another one.

H/W	SET	DUE/TESTED ON
Spelling	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
X Tables	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Monday</i>
SATs Companion Homework	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Monday</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 nearly one half 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