



POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher

Mrs Denise Kennedy

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Dear Year 5 Parents,

We hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year. We are looking forward to an exciting spring term and hope the following will give you a flavour of what to you and your child can expect this term in Year 5.

English	During the Spring term the children will be studying persuasive letters –based on the book “The Misadventures of Frederick.” We will then be looking at Non-chronological reports- based on the books ‘The Skies Above my Eyes’ and ‘The Street Beneath my Feet and the Sea Below my Toes’. Grammar objectives will continue to be woven within the English lessons with discreet teaching where required. In the daily guided reading sessions the children will be continuing to build on their fluency and their reading comprehension skills using the VIPERS skills which we refer to regularly in class- Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising. Our first guided reading text will be ‘Tom’s Midnight Garden’ which we will also look at in English. Spellings will be taught using our Essentials spelling program. This will be 4 short 20-minute spelling sessions per week where we will look at spelling patterns, rules and the Year 5/6 spelling list. Handwriting will focus on letter formation and fluency in a teaching session once a week.
Mathematics	In Maths, we will continue to follow the Essential Maths program taught last term. In the Spring term, we will be looking at the following areas: fractions (comparing and ordering, adding and subtracting), problem solving with all four operations, multiplying fractions by whole numbers, converting units of measure, area, percentages and problem solving and properties of shape. In addition to our daily Maths lesson, we will have 3 short 10 minute Maths fluency sessions, focusing on core skills and strategies taught across KS2. We will also be focusing on times tables knowledge and practicing this regularly in fluency sessions.
Science	In the spring term we will be studying forces including gravity, friction and machines.
Computing	Our first computing topic is online safety including children's responsibilities when they are online, copyright of documents and images and referencing sources from the internet. After half term, children will learn about spreadsheets. They will explore the uses for excel including real life scenarios such as planning a party. Computing will continue to be blocked and year 5 will do computing every day for one week of each half term.

R.E.	The children will be learning about Judaism including Shabbat and pilgrimage. <u>After half term we will also continue work on Christianity by looking at salvation.</u>
PSHCE	The PSHCE focus for the spring term is all about Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me.
P.E.	Year 5 P.E sessions will take place on Thursdays, and the children will continue their swimming on a Wednesday . Swimming lessons will commence during the week beginning 6th January 2025. Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit every week and if they are not able to swim one week, for any reason, please provide a written note or email the office with the reason. Children should come to school in their PE kits on a Thursday and their school uniform on a Wednesday. In their Thursday PE lessons the children will be doing Netball and then after half term they will do Handball.
Music	In the two half-terms the children will be taught music by Dragon of the North; a visiting peripatetic music teacher.
Art and Design & Technology	Our focus in the spring term will be Art: Mixed Media Land & City Scapes Exploring how artists use a variety of media to capture spirit of a place. After Half Term we will be working on Bridges as our DT subject.
Topic	Our first topic will be a Geography topic which is a Study of South America. This will include locating countries in South America, looking at climate, populations, currency and languages and completing a study on one South American country. This is an introductory unit to link to the work on Ancient Maya which we will be looking at after half term. Our Ancient Maya topic will include: Who and where was the Maya civilisation? What were their beliefs and cultures? Why did the Maya civilisation collapse and disappear?

Homework –Homework will continue to be set in the same way as it was in the Autumn term. The focus for homework will be reading/phonics and maths. Every week, your child is expected to read or follow their learning from Read, Write, Inc. In addition to this, they will have 1 piece of maths homework which will alternate between online home learning and home learning in an exercise book. This learning will be relevant to the learning they are doing in school.

Reading/Phonics: Your child should read at least 3 times a week or complete their individual phonics work. It is lovely to see what the children are reading in school so please record this in their reading record. Please note, these are not used to record every time your child reads in school as this happens regularly.

Maths: Maths homework will be set each week either as an activity on maths.co.uk (Y1-Y6) or an alternative online platform, or via their homework book.

We hope that this provides a useful insight into the exciting work we will be enjoying this term. If you have any questions that you would like to ask us, please do not hesitate to call or email to arrange to speak with us.

Kind regards,

Mr C. Davey
Year 5 Class Teacher



