

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a relaxing and exciting Christmas and took advantage of the quality family time that you had together. Our theme this term is '**Down in the Jungle**' as outlined on the curriculum poster, where we will embrace a host of topics within literature, geography, art, science, music and dance associated with rainforest culture, land use, climate and habitats which are predominantly linked to the diverse landscape of South America. Our class will be forming balanced arguments, to express justified opinions centred around deforestation and its consequences for habitats and the environment whilst considering the global demand for farming, jobs and food supplies for an ever growing population. This will feed into the big question that underpins our theme: What is the environmental impact of mankind?

Aside from the forthcoming Bike-Ability week, Year 5 will continue to embark on further visits from professionals and have exclusive field trips to a variety of local industries in and around Plymouth as part of the 'Widening Horizons' programme. These unique opportunities will offer our pupils in Year 5 an enriching insight to a variety of careers and working environments.

Dates confirmed for this term are as follows:

January 16th: Coach Trip to EE, Plympton. (morning)

February 5th-8th: Bike-Ability week (Road Safety in and around school. Monday - Thursday mornings)

February 7th: WAMS - Student doctor's workshop at Plymouth University. (afternoon)

February 29th: Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (all day - packed lunch required) *TBC*

March 21st March: Plymouth University Medical student classroom visit (afternoon)

Most routines from the previous term remain the same:

- Homework and spellings will usually be given on a **Friday** and should be returned the following **Wednesday**. Occasionally, homework will be set on Google Classroom and may include extended projects with alternative options. Arithmetic and reasoning test revision alongside times tables and spellings will continue to be ongoing homework activities with regular tests that usually will take place each **Tuesday and Wednesday** mornings.
Each week, as previously, Year 5 spellings will follow the Spelling Shed scheme in line with the National Curriculum; as you know, some words are challenging! **There may also be a short grammar or punctuation activity to reinforce what they have been learning in class.**
- PE activities will take place every **Tuesday and Wednesday**, however PE kit should be **brought to school every Monday, kept in school and taken home for washing on a Friday**. Please ensure PE kit is labelled as T-shirts and shorts are hard to track down without names. Tracksuits may be worn outside if the weather is cold.
- Please make sure that your child has a **water bottle** in school – the classrooms get very warm both in the summer and winter and active brains need plenty of hydration!
- Children should read every evening, ideally 20 minutes. Even though your child is becoming increasingly confident as a reader, it is still important that you share books together and talk about the features of the text. Children who regularly read at home generally make excellent progress in school. We will hear children read during guided reading each week or sometimes on a 1:1 basis. Books will be changed as often as possible. Free readers can change their own books regularly.

We will continue to have high expectations for our pupils over this next term and likewise remain keen to build upon the rapport with you all over the coming months, so if you have any concerns about your child's progress or well-being, then please come and see me. I am usually around before or after school, or you can call to make an appointment that is convenient for us both.

Many thanks,

Mr Napier and the Y5 team.