

## **Springfield- Information for Parents**

Welcome back and happy new year! I hope you've had a lovely Christmas and that your child is looking forward to the exciting year ahead. Here are a few organisational things for the start of the term.

### **PE days**

#### **Monday and Tuesday**

Please make sure full PE kits, including indoor pumps and outdoor trainers, are in school and jewellery is removed on these days. It is also useful to have a spare pair of socks in their PE kit, as we will be going outside even if it is wet!

### **Homework**

Literacy and maths homework will be out on Teams on **Fridays** to be completed by **Wednesday** in the following week. The children will also have spellings to learn each week.

**Homework will start on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Reading-** Please could you continue to read with your child 3 times a week and write this in their reading record. Children can also write in themselves when they have read independently.

### **Walking Home**

If you would like your child to walk home on their own, please could you let me know.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Newby

This term our topic is the Middle East, with a particular focus on: Baghdad's role in early Islamic civilisation; geographical features of Iraq and the surrounding area and migration and refugees.

### English

Our English lessons will be linked to our class book: *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf. We will begin by writing formal letters and then our focus will be on descriptive writing. We will continue with our guided reading and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) sessions.

### Mathematics

Year 5s will begin with a focus on written methods for multiplication and division. This will regularly be applied to a range of problem solving and reasoning scenarios. We will then continue our work from last term on fractions, multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by integers, and finding fractions of amounts. Finally, we will begin to convert between fractions and decimals.

Year 6s will begin with a focus on ratio. We will: use ratio language, use the ratio symbol, solve ratio problems, understand scale drawing, use scale factors and develop an understanding of the relationship between fractions and ratio. After that, we will move onto algebra; finding rules, forming expressions, using formulae, and forming and solving equations.

### Science

In science, we will be studying life cycles of living things. We will start by looking at reproduction plants. We will then find out about Jane Goodall's work with chimpanzees, followed by metamorphosis in insects and amphibians. Finally, we will compare what we have learned with the life cycle of birds.

### Computing

In computing, we will be coding. We will start by planning and coding a game, which involves a timer and scoring. We will then learn about and practise using functions. After this, we will find out about ways to include interactivity in programming. Finally, we will code a text-based adventure game.

### History

As I mentioned earlier, we will be finding out about Baghdad's role in early Islamic civilisation. We will compare life in Baghdad with life in Europe circa AD900. We will go on to learn about the House of Wisdom and how it became a centre for learning.

### Geography

In geography, we will be considering some of the key geographical features of Iraq and why people may have settled there. We will then go on to the role of war in the migration of people and the difficulties faced by refugees.

### RE

In RE, we will be considering how we could change the world to make it a better place. We will start by considering this in the context of Christian beliefs about Creation and The Fall and beliefs from other world religions. The children will then develop their questions, which they will research to produce a PowerPoint containing images, statements, ideas and questions to present to the rest of the class. Finally, the children will reflect upon their learning and their own beliefs to write a speech, inspired by Martin Luther King's famous 'I have a dream' speech.

## PE

This half-term we will be working on netball skills and game strategies. We will also be choreographing, practising and performing a dance, based on a beach theme.

## Music

In music, the children will learn A New Year Carol by Benjamin Britten: *A Friday Afternoon's Song*. They will look at the history of this piece and explore the interrelated dimensions of music within this composition.

## Art

In art this half term, the children will be looking at Islamic art, experimenting with colour and geometric patterns and using different media to create a class collage and independent compositions.

## PSHE

In PSHE we will begin by discussing New Year's Resolutions and how we can achieve them. Then, we will find out what is meant by a 'diverse' society in relation to the UK. We will consider the benefits of living in a diverse society and demonstrate how we can value and celebrate diversity. After this, we will consider stereotypes and how we can challenge them. Finally, we will find out about the influence of prejudiced or extremist views and how we can seek support.

## French

In French, we will be learning to talk about ourselves. We will practise listening skills, in the context of parts of the body. Then, we will find out about how to order sentences, when describing ourselves. Finally, we will hold short conversations about activities at school.