

## **Springfield Information for Parents – Spring 1**

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and that your child is looking forward to the new term.

Our topic for the term will be 'Early Islamic Civilisation and the Middle East'.

### **Literacy**

We will begin by writing 'thank you' letters to people who have helped to make the Christmas break special.

We will then read and explore the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf, which is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

We will investigate character and setting, write persuasive letters and complete story extracts reflecting some of the key themes in the story.

**SPAG-** We will have daily spelling, punctuation and grammar sessions linked to our other reading and writing work.

**Class Reading-** We will have daily 'reading fluency' sessions during which pupils will work in small groups with a focus text. These sessions will support development of reading fluency and text comprehension. We will also have daily 'quiet reading' sessions during which pupils will spend time reading for pleasure with a book of their choice.

### **Maths**

Year 5 will begin by focusing on written methods for multiplication and division. We will then continue work on calculating with fractions. Finally, we will begin to convert between fractions and decimals.

Year 6 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. We will then move onto algebra, focusing on finding rules, forming expressions, using formulae and solving equations.

**Arithmetic-** We will practise our arithmetic skills regularly and each week we will complete an arithmetic assessment which will be used to track progress.

### **Science**

We are beginning with the topic 'Living Things and their Habitats' in which we will investigate the life cycles of a range of plant and animal species and examine the work of important naturalists and conservationists.

### **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 statements, ideas and questions to present to the rest of the class.

**Christian Values-** Our class Christian value for this year is 'Trust' and the school Christian value for this half-term is 'Truthfulness'.

## **PE**

In PE, we will be focussing on invasion games, involving developing our understanding of strategy and position when playing netball and handball.

## **Music**

In Music, we will be learning how to use a DAW (digital audio workstation) to produce our own tracks. We will look at how we can use the studio software to programme layers of electronic instruments to develop a hip hop track.

## **History**

As part of our topic on 'Islamic Early Civilisation' we will be learning about Baghdad's role in the early development of civilisation in the Middle East. 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 learning about trade and the global economy and investigating some of the trading relationships that exist between the UK and other countries in the world. We will then consider how war impacts societies, leading to the migration of people and the difficulties faced by refugees.

## **PSHE**

In PSHE 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. We will examine how government policies can impact change and how communities can work together to support people.

## **French**

We will be learning the vocabulary and conversation phrases associated with hobbies.

## **Art**

In Art, we will be looking at Islamic art, involving experimenting with colour, geometric patterns and different media to create independent compositions and a class collage.

## **Computing**

In Computing, we will be learning how to further develop our coding skills. We will start by planning and coding a game which involves a timer and scoring, which we will then develop further to include a range of functions. Finally, we will code a text-based adventure game.

## **Important Information and Class Routines**

### **PE**

PE days are **Mondays & Wednesdays**. Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school on these days and any earrings are removed.

### **Homework**

The Homework Grid details a range of different homework activities to choose from. The expectation is that one piece is selected and completed by the Wednesday of each week. There may, at times, be specific homework activities to carry out during particular weeks. If so, these activities will be linked to a topic or a specific lesson. A note will be sent to inform if this is the case.

Weekly spellings will be given out on Friday with the test to be carried out the following Friday.

### **Walking Home**

If your child is allowed to walk home on their own, please could you inform a member of Springfield staff.

Thank you

Mr Cross