

## Peacocks Class - Term 3 Newsletter (January 2020)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break.

Our overarching topic for terms 3 and 4 is called '**Is The Past The Key To Our Future?**'. It will have a key focus on History. Our History topic is 'Mysteries of the Maya'. Exploring this intriguing ancient civilisation, will give us the opportunity to find out about their culture and lifestyles, gods and beliefs, along with their love for mathematics and artistic flair for painting and carving. Excitingly, this will allow for lots of cross-curricular opportunities in English, Art and Design and Technology. Throughout our learning, we will be making comparisons between the Maya and our own society too. Links will be made between our Science and History in term 3, where we will be studying 'Earth and Space': did you know the Maya were avid astronomers? This will also link with our class novel 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, where it really is a case of one giant leap for boy-kind!

Reading for pleasure will continue to be a huge focus in Peacocks Class and we greatly value your support with your child's daily reading at home as this complements their access to learning at school and therefore promotes progress in their abilities and understanding. Children are never too old to be read to or to be listened to reading. Please could you remind your child to record their reading in their Reading Record. Their target is to read 5 times a week. Reading 20 minutes per day will dramatically improve their imagination, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Another reminder regarding regular routines:

- Reading books and Reading Records should be brought into school every day.
- Spellings will be tested on a Monday with new spellings being sent out on the same day and will be based on the rule(s) being taught in that week. Children are expected to be able to spell words from the Y3 & 4 and Y5 & Y6 spelling list set out in the National Curriculum. A copy of these lists can be found in your child's Reading Record. We will often refer back to these spellings and the weekly spellings during our day-to-day learning throughout the course of the year.
- Homework will be due in on a Friday with new homework being set on the same day. This will consist of Maths, which will be arithmetic. English homework will be spellings and reading.
- PE will be on a Friday. Please can you ensure your child has their PE kit and that it is named. It should be in school every day as there may be times when our timetable might change slightly.
- Our Forest School sessions will be on a Wednesday every other week (more details to follow).
- Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school every day which can be kept in the classroom for them to have access to throughout the day.
- Rewards - As a class, we will continue to collect marbles in a jar, which are earned through whole class achievements as well as earning Team Points. In addition to this, Peacocks can earn raffle tickets too for demonstrating a super attitude to learning and showing respect and kindness to others.

If there is anything you need to speak to myself or Mrs Smith about, please do not hesitate to talk to us; we would be more than happy to help.

Best wishes,

*Miss Fassum & Mrs Smith*