



**RED HOUSE  
SCHOOL**

36 The Green  
Norton  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS20 1DX

01642 553370  
office@redhouseschool.co.uk  
www.redhouseschool.co.uk

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Dear Parents

### **Year 5 Newsletter – Autumn 2020**

Welcome back to another busy and exciting school year. The Year 5 pupils are adjusting well to life back in school and are rising to the challenges of being in upper Key Stage 2! As top of the Junior School, they have particularly been working on identifying ways to 'inspire' others in terms of their behaviour, attitude, work ethic and kindness. I thought that you would like to know what your child will be studying over the next term so that you can help to support their studies.

#### **English**

This term, pupils will be reading 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by CS Lewis. The book will provide the stimulus for creative writing, including setting and character descriptions. They will also write explanatory texts using inspiration from Wallace & Gromit's 'Cracking Contraptions' and a non-chronological report about volcanic eruptions in Pompeii. Regular exercises will be taught to improve the pupils' spelling ability and to encourage the use of accurate punctuation and grammar.

#### **Maths**

In the autumn term, pupils will extend their understanding of place value including decimal numbers up to 2 decimal places. They will develop efficient written and mental methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide, and they will compare fractions and find equivalents. They will also convert times from 12- to 24-hour clocks, and start to use a protractor to measure and draw angles.

#### **Science**

In the first half of the autumn term, pupils will study life cycles. In this topic, pupils will discover how flowering plants reproduce and learn more about the differences in the life cycles of creatures such as insects and amphibians. Pupils will also develop their scientific skills through planning investigations on how light travels and what affects how it travels, including how shadows are formed.

#### **Art**

This term, the pupils will create Stone Age inspired art work. They will work alongside their history lessons, looking at traditional cave art paintings. They will develop observational drawings of animals inspired from historical evidence and take these drawings into a cave art mixed media outcome.

#### **French**

Pupils will learn how to describe their family, talk about where they live in detail and discuss what food and drinks they enjoy. They will also learn how to ask and answer simple questions, use adverbs, adjectives, possessive adjectives and develop complex sentences.

#### **Physical Education – Boys**

The main focus in games this term will be football and hockey. The programme is aimed to develop an increased level of understanding of basic tactics and rules, and how to apply these

in a competitive environment. Whilst we await guidelines on the re-introduction of swimming lessons, pupils will have an additional PE lesson. During this time, they will have the opportunity to further develop all aspects of fitness, including coordination, agility and strength.

### **Physical Education: Girls**

The main focus in games this term will be netball and hockey. The programme is aimed to develop an increased level of understanding of basic tactics and rules, and how to apply these in a competitive environment. Whilst we await guidelines on the re-introduction of swimming lessons, pupils will have an additional PE lesson. During this time, they will have the opportunity to further develop all aspects of fitness, including coordination, agility and strength.

### **Geography**

Pupils will study volcanoes in the autumn term. They will learn about the structure of the earth, plate movement and the formation of different types of volcanoes. They will look at past eruptions and complete an independent project on a chosen volcano.

### **History**

The 'Stone Age to the Iron Age' topic will be brought to life this term as pupils develop their knowledge of archaeological skills and vocabulary. They will first research Stone Age homes such as those found at Star Carr and Skara Brae. Then, to understand the Bronze Age, they will find out about tool-making as well as exploring the importance of Stonehenge. They will finally go on to find out about what life would be like in an Iron Age village and explore and understand hill forts.

### **Computing**

During the first half term, the pupils will particularly work on e-safety including thinking critically about the information they share online, image manipulation and the validity and reliability of the information they find online. They will also create their own 'Choose Your Own' stories using hyperlinks in PowerPoint. After half term, they will use the Scratch program to create a game using a sequence of algorithms. Throughout the autumn term, they will also use the internet to support their research related to other subjects.

### **Music**

Pupils will continue to develop their knowledge of musical notation, and speaking or clapping rhythms with and without accompaniments. They will listen to music that portrays a train journey and then illustrate the musical events. Pupils will explore musical instruments including the cello, clarinet, and untuned percussion. Later in the term, some listening will focus upon Christmas music.

### **PSHE**

This term, the pupils will be discussing their feelings and opinions focusing on the following topics: Gifts & Talents; Having a Say in the School Community; Rules & Laws; Voting & Debating; and Role Models. Pupils will also learn how to cope with strong emotions and develop their understanding of mindfulness.

**RS**

Year 5 will study Peace and Worship. The pupils will look at the meanings of peace in different religions and symbols that represent peace. They will explore what worship is, what it means to religious believers and how believers worship differently.

**Technology**

During the autumn term, pupils will explore how musical instruments amplify sound and change the pitch of a note. They will then design, build and evaluate their own tuned musical instrument. Pupils will also investigate a range of mechanisms and linkages. They will apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of these mechanisms in a practical application to a Christmas card.

I do hope you find this information useful so that you can support your child in their learning. If you have any questions or queries, please get in touch:  
[claire.thompson@redhouseschool.co.uk](mailto:claire.thompson@redhouseschool.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



**Miss C Thompson**  
**Assistant Head of the Junior School**

