**Primary 5/6 Newsletter - August 2016**

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays. It was lovely to welcome everyone back after the holidays and hear all of their holiday news. All the children have settled back into school and are already working hard.

At the beginning of term we revisited the golden rules and, following a class discussion, the children created their own set of class rules which are:

* Always try your best.
* Listen when others are talking.
* Be respectful of other people’s property.
* Treat others how you expect to be treated.
* Be kind and helpful.
* Put your hand up and don’t shout out.
* Be respectful of other people’s feelings.

If children break the class rules they will receive a warning, following this they will begin to lose golden time.

Our topic for both term one and two will be Titanic, which will provide the children with a diverse range of cross-curricular opportunities. The children have also created a class mind map highlighting the areas they would like to learn about. As part of our learning we will also be reading ‘Kasper the Prince of Cats’ and exploring many themes that run throughout the book. Children have already began to share stories and knowledge of the topic and they are welcome to bring in any topic related items from home to share with the class.

In maths we will begin the term with a focus on revising and extending our knowledge of multiplication and division. Our P6’s will also begin with a focusing on place value and our P5’s will explore addition and subtraction. Throughout the term we will also focus on developing our mental math strategies and problem solving skills.

Our specialists this term are:

Thursday Science Mrs Middleton

Friday French Ms Ruxton

PE will be on a Wednesday and Friday, weather permitting it would be great to get the children outside as much as possible this term so they may wish to bring a tracksuit or jumper and outdoor trainers for these sessions. As you may be aware, in addition to PE we are also taking part in the daily mile.

Reading this term will be taught on a Monday and Thursday for the red and blue groups and Tuesday and Friday for the green group. Children will have reading homework twice a week which will also involve a book detective task - a list of all of the book detective activities can be found inside the homework diary. Children will also have the opportunity to visit the school library once a fortnight.

Spelling homework will be given out on a Monday and should be prepared and returned every Friday.

Any additional homework tasks will be given out on a Monday to be returned to school on Friday. These may consist of topic related items, maths or language tasks to help reinforce and consolidate learning in class. In addition to this, if you feel your child needs to do more in terms of homework, they could be encouraged to do topic research, revise times tables or keep up to date with current affairs by watching Newsround reports or reading the newspaper. Children have also been given access to Sumdog, an online resource which encourages practice on a variety of mental math activities.

Dates for your diary:

* Curricular Evening - Tuesday 20th September, 6pm – 7pm.
* Parent/Teacher Consultations – Wednesday 2nd November, 6pm – 8.30pm and Thursday 3rd November 3.45pm – 6.15pm.

If you have any concerns or need to speak to me please either put a note in the homework diary or call the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to meeting you at the curriculum evening.

Kind Regards,

Mrs J McDonald