



UPPER SCHOOL Summer 1

Welcome back! We hope that you and your children had a lovely Easter break. It looks like the weather is beginning to change for the better - the children are enjoying using the field at lunchtime. Please make sure your children come to school ready for the weather we may expect to see at this time of the year with a waterproof jacket, a sun hat and a bottle of water. Please make sure these are named as it helps children find their misplaced items more easily. We are looking forward to another exciting term of learning opportunities this half term.

This half term we have lots of exciting opportunities for the children. In Year 4, they have begun some interesting work with a local charity - The Freshwater Habitat trust. This work involves the children learning about endangered native wetland plants, sowing seeds and eventually replanting these plants into their native habitat.

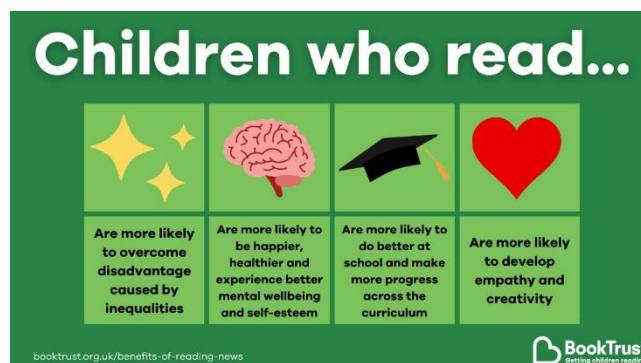
Later on in the term, Key Stage two children will be sitting assessment tests to check their attainment and progress. You can help your children perform as well as they can by making sure you hear them read regularly (including talking to them about their book) involving them with 'real life' maths (prices and measures when out shopping or in the kitchen) and checking they know how to tell the time. Regular practise really can make a lot of difference!

Homework

Your child will be set homework on Google Classroom every day. When the children log into Google Classroom, they will be directed to either EdShed or TT Rockstars for their homework. Please support your children in completing these as they provide an important opportunity to practice and embed new learning and can deepen understanding. They also give families a chance to talk about the learning that is taking place in school.

Reading

It is very important that your child reads every day. Please remember to sign your child's book when you have listened to them read. Your child will have a reading book from school that is pitched at a level to help develop their reading. The children can also take home another book of their choice. Please read this with your child as well.



Year 4

We began the summer term welcoming our new teacher Miss Walsh. She has now settled into life at Castlefield and is really enjoying getting to know her class and supporting them in their learning.

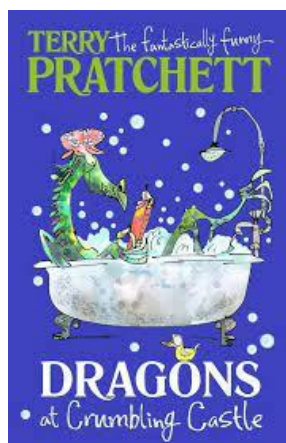
At the beginning of term, as part of our RE studies, we visited St Mary and St George's Church and the Hindu Temple in Cressex. It was a fascinating morning visit and we enjoyed making the journey on foot. We received a very warm welcome to both places of worship and it was very interesting to learn about these two faiths represented in the local community.

This term in our Writing lessons we are composing a warning tale and an instruction text. In Reading lessons we are enjoying funny short stories such as 'Dragons at Crumbling Castle' by Terry Pratchett and answering reading comprehension questions. In Science we will be studying how the water cycle works and carrying out lots of practical experiments. In Maths we are continuing our focus on learning our times-tables by heart, we will learn about time decimals and money and develop our understanding of units of time. In Music we are learning songs and composing on the theme of rivers. In PE we are enjoying challenge tasks on Mondays and playing cricket on Thursdays. In computing we are learning about computational thinking and developing our understanding of internet safety. In Art we are studying the sculptor, Alexander Calder.

We have the Multiplication Tables Check national test the week after the May half-term holiday - thank you for quizzing your children on their times-tables to keep their recall speedy and help them to feel confident to reach the 25/25 score we are aiming for!

The summer term is a joy for sport-lovers and we are all excited to begin the run-up to Sports Day in Summer 2. We hope to see lots of Year 4 parents on the side-lines!

Mrs Quinton, Miss Walsh and Miss Tong



Year 5

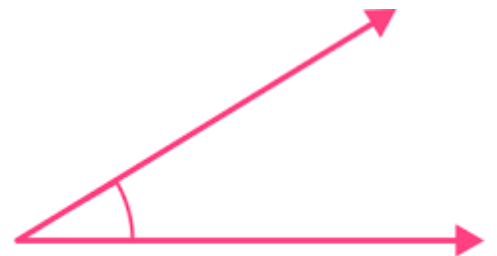
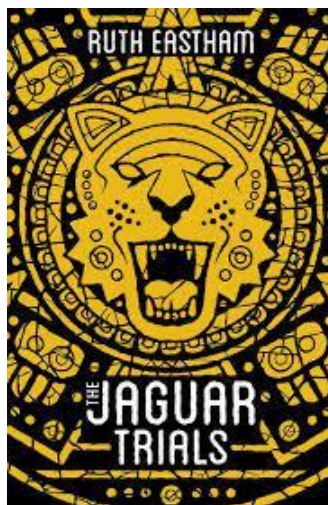
We hope everyone has had a restful Easter break and a happy Eid. This term, Year 5 welcomes two new members in the team: Miss Linnell, who has taken over from Mrs Hill-Cornwell and Mrs Fakih, who has taken over from Mrs Drummond. Both have ensured a smooth transition for the children and are delighted to be with us.

We have an exciting summer term ahead! Following on from the success of our trip to the Tower of London, we are working hard to organise another trip, this time linked to our geography topic of biomes and the rainforest. Keep an eye out for details when it is finalised. Our new reading book, 'The Jaguar Trials', is also linked to our geography topic as it is set in the heart of the Amazon jungle, where the characters try to solve trials, lift a curse and find a missing Dad, all with the help of an unusual jaguar. We will be learning more about plants and animals in our science topic too which centres around life cycles.

In writing, we continue to develop our writing skills for different purposes and this term we will focus on how to write a discussion text. Having lots of discussions at home, where different viewpoints are shared and explained, will be an excellent way to support our school work! In Maths, we will be continuing our unit on decimals before moving on to angles, learning how to draw, measure and calculate them. Once again, please remember that any homework set, really supports the learning by helping children remember the concepts and clarifying confusion. Please continue to ensure children complete their tasks every day.

Our other subjects offer OAA (outdoor adventurous activities) in PE, learning about search engines in computing and looking at special texts in RE. There are also some special music days to look forward to!

Mrs Keys, Miss Linnell and Mrs Fakih



Year 6

Welcome back to a very exciting final term in primary school! We will be continuing with our learning around WW2 with a trip to Hughenden Manor on Friday 17th May to explore the impact of this event on the local area. This theme runs through computing where we continue to look at the work of Bletchley Park and our first reading text where we will be reading a biography on Alan Turing.

For our second text of this half term, we will read *Brightstorm*, by Vashti Hardy, a story of two twins whose world is turned upside down and end up on a mission to South Polaris to restore the *Brightstorm* name. There are many parallels between this text and others that your children may enjoy reading, such as *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *Northern Lights*.

In our writing lessons, we will be doing 3 independent pieces of writing to consolidate our learning from across the year: a newspaper report on The Blitz, a balanced argument on dams and a biography of Mary Anning. We will also be learning about Mary Anning in our science lessons where we look at evolution and inheritance.

In our geography lessons in Spring term, we were learning about North America. This half-term we build on this by looking at Buckinghamshire and California and how the two places compare.

PE continues to be on Monday and Thursday, but children may need PE kits on other days so it should be brought in to school Monday and returned home on Friday to be washed. PE is OAA (outdoor adventurous activities) and cricket.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Burrell, Miss Chandler and Mrs Sheehan

