

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to a new term in school. This term is a busy one and our topics are as follows:

Literacy: This half term we will be starting our literacy learning using the book *The House of Wisdom* which links to our history topic *The Golden Age of Islam*. The children are writing a setting description of Baghdad and then retelling the story using various literary devices. After that we will be reading the book *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, a children's popular author. This text will inspire our Literacy, where children will write stories based on the book.

After half-term, we will be reading *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. From this reading we will be writing stanzas following the rhythmic pattern of the poem. We will also be finding out information about Highwaymen and women, and the impact they had on the people living in the local area. To support this knowledge, we will be walking to Shooters Hill and Oxleas woods on Friday 8th March to explore this further. Children will use all their research to write a guide on 'How to become a successful highwayman'.

We will also continue to focus on grammar, punctuation, spelling and handwriting. We ask that children have their reading books and reading logs available in school every day. We have been talking to the children about selecting quality fiction books to read both at school and at home and we would appreciate your support in helping your child to choose appropriate books with sufficient challenge to develop their reading pace and stamina.

We will continue to work through the Year 5 **Maths** programme of study. We will be developing problem-solving skills through open questions and collaborative work. We are concentrating on written methods for division and multiplication, fractions, decimals and percentages. In addition to this, we will be focusing on fluency within Mathematics, and this will involve a range of mental strategies to solve a problem. **It is essential that the children are continuing to learn their times tables** and we would ask for your help and encouragement in supporting your child in learning their multiplication tables. Your additional support will help your child gain mathematical confidence in this area.

Science: We will be finishing our topic of **Earth & Space**, where children will continue to learn about the solar system, describe the movements of the planets and explain how the Earth's rotation affects day and night. To support this topic, we visited the Planetarium in Greenwich for a workshop on Monday 15th January. After we have finished *Earth & Space* we will start a new topic of *Materials*, with a focus on dissolving and mixing.

Geography: After half-term we will be studying the physical characteristics of South America and its position on the globe and how this affects the earthquakes, volcanoes and mountains that are formed in South America. Our case studies will be The Andes, The Atacama Desert and The Amazon Rainforest.

Art: We will be exploring Islamic tile mosaics using the skill of printing and sculpture. We will work with clay and build on the skills used in Year 4. This will also be an introduction to our history topic 'Ancient Islamic Civilisation'. After half-term we will be looking at the artwork of Charles Keeping and focussing on different elements of observational or compositional drawing which is linked to our *Highwayman* learning in literacy.

History: We will begin the Spring term with a history focus, where we will be exploring the Golden Age of Islam. Using a range of sources, we will be selecting relevant evidence to build up a picture of life in this ancient civilisation.

In **RE**, this term we will be learning about Buddhism and the Buddhist community. How the teachings and the example of the Buddha help Buddhists to grow towards enlightenment.



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In **RHE** (Relationships and Health Education) links to our **Computing** curriculum of Online safety we will be identifying healthy online behaviours and relationships before half-term and after half-term we will be learning some first-aid.

Our **PE** sessions will take place on **Wednesday** and **Thursday for both classes**, with a focus of gymnastics and tag rugby.

Please bring a PE Kit (white T Shirt and black shorts) on Monday to take home for washing on Friday. Children will need both indoor and outdoor (black jogging bottoms) and trainers or plimsolls. Children should not wear earrings on PE days and long hair must be tied back.

In **Computing**, we will be identifying different forms of input command using apps such as Tynker.

Home Learning: Will consist of maths consolidation (which will either be stuck into their home learning journals or on My Maths) and weekly spellings which we will hand out on Friday. We will complete a spelling test on the following Thursday in school. **Please encourage them to complete this home learning and return it to school on Wednesday.**

Reading Logs are expected to be completed and brought to school each day with the reading book.

School Trips and Workshops: We continue to be committed to offering a variety of school trips to enrich the curriculum we offer children here at Deansfield. As well as increasing children's self-esteem and confidence, trips are hugely successful when they are part of our long-term curriculum planning and have clear links to the classroom. As you know, we introduced a 'pay as you go' method in September. Further information is available on our internet: [School-Trips-parents-letter-200623](#). Your prompt payment via Bromcom is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Allen and Mrs Newman
Year 5 teachers