



Autumn 1 2020

Team Eagle Newsletter

Year 5/6



Welcome back to a brand new school year! We have lots of exciting things planned for our learning. Our Christian value for this half term is 'friendship'. It is important, now that we are back at school, to rebuild friendships that we have with our classmates, some of whom we have not seen for a long time. We have already begun to think about the values of a good friend and we will be putting these values into practice as we reconnect with our peers.

Miss Orrell and Miss Holland

Homework

Children should ensure that they are reading at least 4 times a week and practising their weekly spellings as part of their homework.

We will also be continuing to use Google Classroom throughout the half term. Topic based tasks or projects will be uploaded every few weeks and the children will be notified when there is a new task for them to complete.



Reading

Children in Team Eagles must read independently at home at least 4 times a week. They will be able to write this in their Reading Record and this should be signed by a parent or another adult at home.

Children should continue to bring in their reading books with them in their bags everyday so that they can read with an adult and their reading level can be checked and altered as soon as possible if it is not suitable.

Reading books will only be changed **on a Friday** so that books that are returned to school can be quarantined for 72 hours over the weekend.

Children will not be permitted to take another reading book out of school if the old one has not been returned.



Key Dates

From now on, all our calendar dates will be updated on the school website. This will be kept up to date and will provide consistency across the school. Please visit:

<https://www.darringtonschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=4&pid=34&viewid=5>

The e4education News & Events app will allow parents to get the latest news stories and calendar events added to the school website straight to their iPhone, Android or Windows phone.

PE

PE will take place on a Friday in Team Eagles.

Children should come to school in their PE kit so that they do not have to get changed whilst they are in school. They do not need to bring their uniform with them; they can remain in their PE kit all day.

Please see the uniform policy for the correct PE kit that children should wear.



Home Learning

We will be continuing to use Google Classroom to set home learning in the event of a class or year-group having to self-isolate. Your class teacher may also set homework tasks on here throughout the year. We will be sending out some extra information on how to use this with this newsletter. Please speak to a member of staff or email admin@darringtonschool.org.uk if you do not yet have any login details for this.

Please also check the class pages section of the website for links to other resources which can be accessed if needed.

What are we learning this half-term?

English: Our English learning this half term is based on our class book 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman, which also links to our World War Two History topic. We will be starting the topic off by writing flashback stories, focussing on getting back into the swing of writing; ensuring we have the correct punctuation in our writing; using paragraphs; using adverbials to show the passing of time; and also building tension throughout our story. Following that, we will be writing a persuasive and informative text based on rationing during the Second World War.

Spelling: We will be focusing on the Year 5 and Year 6 spelling patterns. Children will be given a list of spellings to practise on a **Friday** and will be tested on these on the following **Friday**.

Maths: In Maths this half term, we will be learning about Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, before moving onto Multiplication and Division. The children will be using a range of concrete, pictorial and abstract resources to strengthen their fluency, reasoning and problem solving. We will be practising times tables every lesson to ensure that we are fluent with them. Children should try to practise these at home as well.

During this half term, we will be completing some diagnostic tests to assess what knowledge children have retained which we can then use to inform our planning of what topics children need to focus on. These tests cover the topics of 'Place Value', 'Addition and Subtraction' and 'Multiplication and Division'.

PHSE: Our PHSE focus for this term will be Mindfulness. Children will understand what mindfulness is and develop techniques for mindfulness. We have already begun to think about situations that make us happy and sad, and we will be continuing our learning with a variety of meditation, creative tasks and calming tasks.

R.E : The title of this half term's RE is 'What does it been to be a Muslim in Britain today?' We will be learning all about the Five Pillars of Islam and how Muslims worship. We will also be thinking about Ramadan and fasting, the Hajj Pilgrimage to Mecca, what these experiences are like for Muslims and these practises help them to build upon their faith.

Science: Our topic in Science for this half term is 'Electricity'. We will begin by recapping our previous knowledge of circuits and circuit components from Meerkats and then building on our knowledge by learning how to repair circuits, investigating how different wires and batteries can affect the brightness of a bulb, and what voltage is.

PE: Physical education this term will consist of game based sports on a Friday morning which is taught by Miss Orrell. Children should come to school in their PE kits and they can remain in their kits all day.

History: Our topic this half term is World War Two. I know lots of children will be very excited by this topic and there are so many things that we could learn about. We have already started to look at the causes of WW2 and we will be continuing our learning by learning about the Allies and Axis, looking at what life was like on the 'home front', learning about the experiences of evacuees and much more!

Computing: In computing, we will be learning about coding. We began our topic by learning about Alan Turing and his role during the Second World War. We learnt about the Enigma machine and created our own ciphers.

Art: Our Art this half term will also link to our World War Two Topic. We will be creating models of Anderson air raid shelters and creating silhouette London skylines during the Blitz.