January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a very well rested Christmas break and enjoyed precious family time.

Here is a snapshot of our learning for the first half term:

Maths: We are starting the term looking at place value before moving on to multiplication and division and finishing the half term on fractions/decimals/percentages.

English: Our text this half term will be ‘Journey to the RiverSea’ by Eva Ibbotson. This novel also links very well to our topic because it has an explorers feel to it. We will be writing in a persuasive manner and creating reports about rainforest animals. Please feel free to get your child a copy, if you wish, if they would like to follow along themselves. Libraries may also have copies of the title.

Other subjects: Our topic work will have a History & Geography focus this term. Our first half term will be spent looking at European Explorers: where they went and the impact they had on us today. We will also be taking a local focus by looking into Vancouver and also Margaret Fountaine, who explored butterflies. This links to our Science work, which will be based on living things and their life cycles and comparing life cycles of plants, mammals, insects (hoping to get some caterpillars) and birds. In Art and Design, it has a strong link to the rainforests (related to novel) and we will be designing and making moving animals by learning about mechanisms. All of our subjects and what we are covering are also on the topic web for this term (attached).

Reading: We would like to emphasise again the importance of reading at home. The children should have a reading book at all times and should be filling in their reading journals daily. It would also be really helpful, in order for the children to practise their inference skills, to write a little prediction each time and back it up with something they have previously read. Reading journals will be checked and children will receive house points if filled in properly. Thank-you for your continued support with this. In addition, there will be a dedicated reading comprehension session to support children with these activities.

Spellings: Spellings remain to be on a Friday with a new rule being taught every Tuesday in the lead up to the Friday test. An overview of these rules will be sent out separately. Please practise each week before the test.

Homework: We will continue to use Sumdog for our weekly homework tasks. Maths homework may have a focus on a skill we have learnt in class, if not, it will have a times tables focus. There may also be a spellings/grammar challenge to complete.

Regular practise of times tables is still essential.

I am planning to have a project based piece of homework set after half term, linked to our upcoming topic on biomes and climate zones.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see us or drop us a line. Mrs Reddey can be e-mailed on creddey@swn.dneat.org. Alternatively, you can message the school office or speak to us at drop off or pick up times.

Happy learning!

With warm regards,

Mrs Reddey, Miss Leftley & Mrs Sizeland