

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We ended last year on a high and the children continued to impress us with their attitude to learning – let's carry this on into the new year!

As always, if you feel you need to discuss anything in regards to your child's learning or school life, then please get in touch and we will arrange a time to see you:

year5@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk - We are always happy to help!

Please contact the office for any absences or changes to collection arrangements:

office@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk

Mrs Merry and Mrs Lee-Mabey

Maths

This half-term, we will begin work on our **fractions and decimal and percentages** units of work in maths lessons.

Children will look at the following:

- **Fractions:** multiplying fractions by an integer, calculating fractions of n amount and quantity, finding a whole and using fractions as an operator.
- **Decimals and percentages:** Decimals up to three decimal places, equivalent fractions and decimals (tenths, hundredths, thousandths), ordering and comparing decimals, rounding decimals, understanding percentages, and percentages as fractions and decimals.

All lessons will include chances for children to apply their learning to reasoning and problem solving.

English

Children will begin the half term with a new writing root: **'The Island' by Armin Greder.**

The children begin thinking about the term 'welcoming' before exploring themes of prejudice and hostility. Children will infer different character's feelings and write letters to give advice and a short news bulletin. Finally, the children will be sent a letter from the man, outlining his experiences and explaining what happened once he was pushed away from the island on his raft. A section of unpublished text is then discovered and, using this as a stimulus, the children will write a narrative sequel from the man's perspective, focusing on using dialogue to convey the character and advance the action as well as the device of question tags in order to include imagined conversations between the fisherman and the outsider.

Art & Design – Drawing

This half-term we will be finishing off our drawing unit where the children will use inspiration from the work of **Antoni Gaudi** to create their own pieces.

Design & Technology – Electronic Devices – Doodlers

The children will design, make and evaluate their own 'Doodler'.

Music – Pulse and voice

This half term, the children will begin our **Voice** unit where the children will learn to:

Sing with an awareness of breathing and pronunciation.

Sing fluently in unison or parts and pitch match accurately.

Maintain own part when singing in multiple parts, accurately following performance directions.

Use graphic notation to create a melody

Comment on own and other people's performances

Know that many traditional songs use the pentatonic scale

Know that melody lines can be created from one or more phrases

Know the meaning of the following vocabulary: dictation, octave, dynamics, harmony, tempo, tone, pitch and ostinato

Science – Earth & Space

This half-term, we will continue our unit of **'Earth & Space'** where children will learn about the following:

- Describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system.
- Describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth.
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

PSHE – Family & Relationships and Health & Wellbeing

Children will continue with the unit '**Family & Relationships**' which will focus on friendship skills, respecting themselves, bullying, stereotypes, marriage and family life

We will then move on to our '**Health & Wellbeing**' unit where we will look at taking responsibility for their feelings and eating healthily.

RE – Humanism

This half term we will start our unit on **Humanism**. The children will learn:

- That Humanists believe that people have one life to live - there is no afterlife.
- that most Humanists do not believe in a God and do not follow a holy book.
- that most humanists believe it is important to support others.
- the meaning of the words atheist and theist.
- how other religions tell followers to be good (e.g. Bible, Torah, Vedas, Qu'ran) and how this links to humanist's beliefs
- that most Humanists believe we don't need to follow a religion to be good and that we should all try and be good for ourselves.

History- World War 1

The children will continue their learning on **World War 1**. We will learn about:

- How Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassination sparked the beginning of the war.
- what the 'Western Front' was and that trench warfare left poor living for soldiers.
- How new machines were being developed all the time to overcome the difficult conditions of battle.
- How women and children took on the jobs of men to keep Britain running.
- How WW1 ended at 11am on 11 November, 1918 with an armistice being signed (an agreement for peace) which caused the fighting to stop.

PE – Outdoor adventurous activities and Invasion games (Quick sticks hockey)

In **Outdoor adventurous activities** this half term, the children will learn to:

- work as a team to ensure all members are able to complete a challenge at a competitive pace.
- effectively lead a team to complete a task and evaluate their own leadership skills.
- use a key to identify landmarks on a map.
- use compass directions to navigate.

The children will also be doing **Invasion games** where they will learn:

- How the direction of play can be anticipated so that you can field, defend and attack.
- How to use a brief movement in a different direction to confuse their opponent (Feinting).
- How to play competitive games with respect and fairness and be a good role model leading a team to success.

Computing – Coding

Year 5 children will move onto our **coding** unit this half term. They will learn:

- How to create playable games and simulations
- The meaning of decomposition, abstraction and functions and why these are important.
- The different variables and the impact of these
- what concatenation is and how this works.

Spanish – Meet and Greet

During this unit, the children will learn about the basics of the Spanish language. They will learn to greet each other, exchange names, ask how someone is, count to ten and say how old they are.