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I think a well done is in order for everyone involved in Year 5 as we

approach the end of the Autumn term healthy and happy!

Your children have worked so hard this term, adapting to new routines, new ways of working at school and at home and just getting back to a sense of normality. Bravo Year 5!



As you know, we started the year following a recovery curriculum devised by the Darlington Educational Psychology service. The curriculum gave the children plenty of time to get to know staff, get to know each other again and talk about their thoughts, feelings and experiences during Lockdown. This was a very successful start to the term and gave the children the time they needed to adjust to being back in school. We are now in full swing of a normal Year 5 timetable delivering a balanced and broad curriculum.



In Maths we have focused on place value and number work including times tables and their associated facts. We have taken part in many TT Rockstars battles, congratulations to all children who achieved a certificate for their performance and to 5R who gained the most points in school during Rockout week.

They all enjoyed their treat - a movie and pizza afternoon! Watch out for further battles coming soon.....

In English we have read Around the World in 80 days in Guided reading and the children were enthralled by this classic adventure! It also benefited our Geography knowledge too which came in useful for our Fantastic Journeys unit of study! We had a virtual author visit in November from Steve Skidmore that was thoroughly enjoyable. It was wonderful for the children to listen to an author read his work out loud and talk about his writing, we all felt very inspired! Year 5 have also taken inspiration for their writing by using a film clip 'Biorn the Viking' as stimuli. The children had great fun writing about his series of misfortunate events as well as a voiceover trailer.



We have introduced two new aspects to our curriculum this term - Spanish and Showbie!

Spanish has been enjoyed by all and the children have loved learning about another language through games, their workbooks and rhymes. We can now count up to 10, say greetings and follow instructions as well as learning about Christmas traditions in Spain.



Showbie is our new platform for home learning in case our bubble is asked to isolate or individual children have to isolate. Please note, if your child is absent through illness then work will not be posted on Showbie for them to complete. All your children have received a pack with exercise books that contain all login and password details that your child needs for Showbie and other on line sites we subscribe to. They also have basic stationary in their pack to use. The children have been accessing Showbie in school, mainly in computing lessons, to get used to how it operates - we are all learning together! We are now putting the weekly spellings on Showbie in the homework folder (paper copies are





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available in school) and next term we shall put another piece of homework in this folder, one per week, as we all continue our Showbie learning journey. Please explore its features through the spelling homework and don't worry if you don't quite get it right, as I said, we are all learning.

Due to our new ways of working, it has proved difficult for the children to earn treats from the stars that they have collected for good work, good behaviour and manners alongside contributions in class to name but a few... So we have decided to award prizes to the 3 top star scorers in each class, each term. Congratulations to our winners and to all Year 5 children who have earned a reading certificate or a High 5 certificate this term. Keep up the good work and next time it could be you.....

Christmas has been the same but different this year. We have studied our Christmas RE unit, exploring the themes of Christmas from both a Christians perspective and a secular viewpoint. Love, Giving, Peace, Goodwill and Joy are themes that shone through and we hope your Christmas is full of them all. In school we have also made and decorated cards and calendars. There are still many wonderful things to look forward to in the last week such as Christmas lunch for school meal children and watching a virtual Panto in our Christmas clothes whilst enjoying a snack. The children will also have the opportunity to exchange Christmas cards with their friends helping to bring a sense of normal to our celebrations.



Just a few reminders:

PE days are Monday and Friday 5B, Monday and Wednesday 5R, Wednesday and Friday 5L. Children are to come to school wearing their PE kit. Trainers, plain red t-shirt, dark tracksuit bottoms/joggers or dark shorts with a jumper/hoodie - preferably red.

Children are introduced to a new set of spellings on a Monday to learn for Friday but they are available to pre-learn on Showbie from the weekend before. The words are a mixture of spelling patterns and key words from the year3/4 list initially then progressing to the year 5/6 list. From January one piece of homework per week will be put in the Showbie homework folder for all children to complete.

Year 5, enter and exit the school grounds via the ASDA gate. We start at 9.00am and finish at 3.10pm. May we respectfully ask you to be prompt with timings and to move away from the site as soon as you have dropped off and collected your child. We appreciate pick up may be difficult if you have another child to collect.

If you need to speak to any member of staff, then please make an appointment as per our new COVID protocols. Face coverings must be worn if you enter the school grounds/building that includes coming to the office window. If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home. If they have a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of smell/taste then please follow COVID protocols as per government guidelines. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our school and community safe.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. Take care everyone and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the spring term in 2021.

The Year 5 staff.



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