

**Y5 Tigris Class Curriculum Newsletter**

**Spring 1 2015**

Dear Parents and Carers

It is lovely to see the children back refreshed after a well earned break. We are very excited to be starting our new term and have lots planned.

**Our topic: Circle of Life** Our topic for spring term uses Africa as a backdrop in order to study evolution and adaptation and life cycles in Science and look at habitats, countries, regions, rivers as well as locating places on world maps in Geography. We will look to compare and contrast life and physical and human features of the continent of Africa and the UK. Africa will also feed into, and provide inspiration for, our PE dance lessons, our art and DT work, music, RE, PSHCE and Philosophy.

**English:** Our topic theme leads our learning in our non-core subject and this is the case with our English work also. We use topic-based books in our guided reading sessions and to improve our spelling and expand our vocabulary. Our writing will be inspired by our topic ‘Circle of Life’ which will see the class study traditional African tales in order to inspire our own stories. Other writing text-types will include: non-chronological reports, explanations, persuasive and balanced arguments, letters, instructions, newspaper reports and poetry.

**Maths:** This term’s maths work will focus on number problem solving using the four operations, properties of shape, interpreting data, becoming more confident with decimals, fractions and percentages, measures, symmetry, probability pattern and sequences. On top of this, year 5 will be trained as maths tutors in order to assist year 3 in their problem solving. This is accordance with the shared maths project we trialled last year. The year 5s act as the expert, guiding their year 3 tutee through their work. This helps both sets of pupils’ understanding and confidence and will take place once a week for half an hour.

**Trips and visitors:** We are very pleased to have arranged an African Voices activity day for after half term where African Post-graduate students from the University of Leeds will come in to school to deliver engaging and informative sessions which aim to provide young people with an alternative perspective of Africa, challenging any stereotypical perceptions they may have of the continent and its peoples

**Clothes or equipment:** It is vital that your child receives quality physical education so that they can develop their fine and gross motor skills, their spatial awareness, hand/eye coordination as well as maintain a healthy lifestyle. In order to do this, your child must be in correct PE kit for both sessions each week. Please ensure they have: a white t-shirt, dark shorts or bottoms, plimsolls or trainers. Long hair must be tied back. Jewellery must be removed. If your child is unable to take part in a PE lesson, please contact the office, see a member of the classroom staff or write a note. Please note that if your child takes part in lunchtime or afterschool sports clubs such as football or rugby, they will need a separate change of clothes for this to ensure they have a clean set for every PE lesson.

**How you can help**: You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Please remember that the most important homework you can do is reading together regularly, practising phonics and spellings and helping children to learn facts for their Maths Passport targets.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

We look forward to a great term.

Thank you

Year 5 Staff

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| **Staff working in class this half term** | **PE Days** | **Reading book day** | **Maths Passport day** | **Spelling day** | **Library book day** |
| Mr Davies, Miss Nicol, Mrs Swiers, Ms Virgin, Miss Bradley (student teacher), Miss Yates (volunteer), Miss Richards (volunteer), Mrs Stretton (volunteer), Lucy and Laura (music students), | Wednesday and Thursday | Everyday | Wednesday  Friday | Friday | Friday |