

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## September 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 parents Ingleborough meeting 6.00pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 4 Swimming lessons resume
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Reception Parents Phonics Meeting
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Ingleborough Residential – Wed, Thurs, Fri
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Nursery & Reception closed – Staff First Aid Training
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Nursery & Reception closed – Staff First Aid Training
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Celebration Assembly -all parents welcome @2.40
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Visit to Tropical World - Danube
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bikeability Week– Year 6
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	SCOPE Coffee Morning – 9.00am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pedestrian Training year 2 and year 4
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bring a tin Harvest Collection
	Parents invited to join Harvest Singing Assembly @2.40
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Break for Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>School Closed – Training day</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School reopens for Autumn 2
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultation meetings

### School Term dates 2023/24

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Half term: 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Christmas: 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Half term: 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb -16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Easter: 29 <sup>th</sup> March– 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Bank Holiday: 6 <sup>th</sup> May Half Term: 27 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	Summer begins: 24 <sup>th</sup> July

### **Training Days:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and one more date to be confirmed.

Nursery and Reception – additional Training Days Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

### **Welcome Back!**

What a busy first week back! It is great to see the children returning to school so confidently – they all seem very happy in their new classes.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children and Nursery children next week. The delays to the roof works were disappointing but staff have made good use of the time and are keen to get started when the children return. Thank you all for your patience and support!

As always, there is lots of work to do to ensure that we keep improving as a school and we are looking forward to the challenge. RESILIENCE was a key word for us last year and we will continue to talk about this with our children this year. We want to support our children (and our staff and parents!) to become even more resilient so that they are able to ‘bounce back’ when things are tricky, tough or don’t go right first time.

All classes will spend time learning about Zones of Regulation which was introduced last year. It is important that children can recognise and name how they are feeling and recognise when they are ‘blue’ or ‘red’ and then have strategies to get themselves back to ‘green’. We could see some real success with this work last year and we want to develop it further this year.

This first half term is a long one – 8 weeks – and it will be busy so, after the relaxation of the summer holiday, it will be important to get bedtime and morning routines back in place at home – the children will be tired! Please do take time to get these routines established at home and think about calm bedtime routines. Devices – phones, ipads, TV’s - should be switched off at least 30minutes before bedtime.

Reading is always a priority and this year we really do want to increase the amount of reading children do at home. Miss Brown (Year 6 teacher and English lead) has lots of ideas and will be talking to the children in assemblies about them. She will also be sending out information for parents – particularly about the use of our reading diaries – so please do watch out for this information. Children should be reading at home EVERY day and we would like parents to be reading bed-time stories EVERY day too.

Thank you as always for all your support. By working together within an ethos of honesty, trust and respect we will continue to be the ‘stunning school community’ our OFSTED inspector recognised.

### **Election of Parent Governors**

Our Governing Body fulfils a vital role in the running of the school. They provide strategic support for the leadership team and support the school to ensure that all statutory

requirements are placed eg. legal, financial, health and safety, safeguarding etc. All governors share the important job of running the school.

Two members of the Board are Parent Governors and they fulfil an important role on our Governing Body. Their role is to represent the voice of parents on the board and their input is important. They will attend Governing Body meetings (x4 per year), attend committee meetings (x3 per year) and will visit school at regular points throughout the year to visit classes and speak to staff about particular areas of focus or aspects of our School Development Plan.

Our two serving parent governors (Richard and Aneta) are coming to the end of their term of office and so it is time for us to extend the opportunity for other parents to volunteer for this role.

If you wish to offer yourself as a candidate to become a parent governor you can contact us (Mrs Sheerin or Mr Barker) for more information.

Any eligible parent can stand for election – if there are more nominations than places then a ballot of all parents will be held to select the parent governors.

Mr Barker will be sending more information next week – in the meantime please do give some thought to standing as a parent governor.

### **Celebration Assembly – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each half term**

In the Parent Questionnaire many parents stated that they enjoyed the opportunities to come into school and welcomed the return of our Celebration Assemblies.

This arrangement seemed to work well last year so we will stick with it again this year!

I have to say that I really enjoyed seeing the vast array of certificates, trophies, badges and awards our children are achieving outside school.

Just for a reminder:

- All parents are invited to join us for Celebration Assembly. Assemblies will not take place every week – they will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each half term at 2.40pm.
- Children can bring in certificates etc. on the Friday morning and just pop them into my office.

During assembly:

- 2 children from each class will be awarded special certificates
- Class Athletics/TT Rocks Champions will be recognised
- Children who have gained certificates, medals, trophies outside school are invited to bring them in to share
- A member of staff may talk about a key theme we've been talking about/working on in school

Parents will also be invited into school for other special assemblies, music performances etc. throughout the year.

### **Home Reading Books – Reading miles!**

For children to become fluent, confident readers they need to read – and they need to read a lot. We will be talking to children about putting in the reading miles and increasing the amount of time they spend reading. This can't all be done at school – the most successful readers are children who read at home and who listen to stories being read to them at home too.

ALL children will be given a book bag which will be sent home on Tuesdays to return on Mondays. Please do look after your book bag and do not lose it! If it does get lost we ask that you purchase another one from the office

We want our children to read every day and make a note of what they have read in their reading diary. Class teachers will explain to the children how they want the diaries completed and Miss Brown will also be talking about this in assembly. We would like parents to comment in the reading diary too.

Class teachers will check the diaries on a Monday and change books ready to send back home on Tuesdays.

Miss Brown is also introducing a new reward and Readerboard with the children and she will explain it to the children in assembly.

*When the diaries are checked on Monday children who have read and commented in their diary every day will have their name put into a 'hat'. When all the diaries have been checked a name will be drawn from the 'hat' and that person will be able to choose a book from the book box to take home and keep.*

*There will also be a class prize. We will keep a tally each week of the number of children in the class who have read everyday. At the end of term we will add this up, convert to a percentage (year 6 will be helping with this!) and the winning class, who have read the most, will receive a reward of their choice.*

All our children – even our older, fluent readers, need support from parents. Please read with your child, ask them questions and get involved in their reading. We want all our children to develop a love for reading and it is essential that adults get involved and are interested in reading too.

### **Parent Questionnaire July 2023**

We had an excellent response to our questionnaire in July – thankyou to all parents who took time to complete and return it.

As always, your comments provided much food for thought! There were some 'threads' running through with thoughts which were shared by a number of parents. We have summarised those below and considered any actions we will take.

You said	We will
<p>You were not really sure what your child was learning in class.</p> <p>A more visual guide of either a week or term breakdown of topics to be covered?</p>	<p>Review how, what and when we share information about curriculum and send clear messages out on newsletter as to where to find the information.</p> <p>Ensure parents are aware of the purpose of the Knowledge Organisers which we send home with associated homework tasks each term.</p> <p>Restructure of school website to make curriculum information clearer.</p>
<p>Sometimes there is not enough notice about events in school</p>	<p>Try to provide more notice when arrangements have been made.</p>

Encouraging reading in after school club would help working parents	Create a reading area in afterschool club with range of texts matched to ability of children in B4A
Recommend books or TV programmes to promote mental health & wellbeing	Review again how/where we share information and ensure this is communicated clearly with parents. <i>We do this already but clearly some parents are not aware of this.</i>
More updates on progress in relation to SEND needs	Plan additional meetings with class teacher to review IPM's (Individual provision maps) beginning in the Autumn term.
You have enjoyed the opportunity to come into school for events (assemblies and community events)	Ensure that opportunities are planned in the diary across the year so that this continues.
You like and appreciate the range of afterschool clubs that are on offer and would like more eg music or art. You would also like clubs for Reception children	Ensure there is a manageable plan for clubs across the year. Look into providing the opportunity for Reception children to join in the summer term.

### Home work/Home Learning Tasks – Independent Projects

In our parent questionnaire a number of parents (July '23 and July '22) commented that they would like us to provide some homework alternatives which were not all screen-based. Some parents also commented that they were not fully aware of what their child was learning in class.

In response to this last year, we decided to trial a new approach where there is 'compulsory' homework – which class teachers will check-up on – and 'optional' homework which children can complete if they wish to do so. Teacher's will not expect that children complete all these optional activities however they will encourage them to complete some of them.

Our 'Compulsory' homework:

- Reading every day
- Learning spellings (use of Spelling Shed)
- Complete assigned Mathematics tasks
- TT Rocks – learn your tables

Our 'optional' homework – Independent Projects

- Children will be given an exercise book which they can use to record any independent project work.
- Children should keep these books in their Book Bags so that they do not get lost!
- At the beginning of each half term (or at the beginning of a new topic whichever is most appropriate) children will stick the topic **Knowledge Organiser** and **suggested task/activity sheet into their book**. Teachers will also post the Knowledge Organiser on dojo.
- Children are encouraged to complete a number of these activities over the term.

- Children should bring the exercise book to school every Monday with their reading diary even if they haven't completed any tasks.
- If the children would like to share their task with the class, they will be given the opportunity to do so.

The Knowledge Organiser also informs parents of the key knowledge and vocabulary we want the children to learn.

Whilst these tasks are optional, we do want the children to at least try some of them! Unfortunately, last year there were some children who didn't complete any at all.

It will be really helpful to children if parents get involved and do the activities with your child. We would like you to help and encourage your child to produce good quality, well presented work. Talking about the Knowledge Organiser with your child will help them learn and understand the key facts and vocabulary and they should also be able to tell you more about what they are learning in class.

### **SCOPE SLEEP RIGHT SERVICE - coffee morning**

*Does your child have a disability?*

*Does your child struggle to sleep or stick to a consistent bedtime routine?*

*The Scope Sleep Right Service is a parent/carer led service which supports children and young people who struggle with sleep.*

*The service offers short term behavioural intervention followed by group session and/or direct support from an experienced sleep practitioner.*

A representative from SCOPE will be in school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am – 10.00am to host a coffee morning. She will be sharing information about the service and may be able to offer some individual advice.

Please do come along – we are lucky that we are able to host this visitor so it would be great if parents would attend.

### **Parking! – Residents Parking Area**

Just before we broke for the summer holiday, I received a lengthy letter of complaint about parking from one of the residents on Naburn Drive. Her complaint related mainly to the use of the residents parking area during our Sports Day and BBQ which I know are one-off events. However, I did respond and reassure her that I would remind parents about the use of the residents parking area (mainly during the evening) and about responsible parking generally.

Yellow lines – the road has been resurfaced and so we are missing our yellow lines at the moment. Please do remember not to park in front of the double gates or on the pavement in front of the Nursery entrance. Parking in these areas causes an obstruction and can be dangerous as lots of children and parents use the pavement and cross the road at this point.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **Packed Lunches – Tupperware boxes please**

Please send packed lunches in a Tupperware box not in a lunch bag

The reason for this is that we still sanitise/clean the boxes each morning so that they are clean when children put them on the dining table. Lunch bags are not easy to clean and are too bulky to stack neatly in our class boxes.

*If you have just bought a new lunch bag don't worry – use that but when it's time to replace it please get a Tupperware box.*

### **Long hair, nail varnish and jewellery**

Please could long hair be tied back in plaits, pony tail, bun etc. As we are active in school hair that isn't tied up just gets in the way. Some of our children come to school with beautifully tied up hair and then take the bobbles out -staff will be reminding children to tie it back up!

Children should not wear nail varnish at school. I think last year we were let this slip and as a result even had children wearing false nails! Please keep painted nails and false nails for the holidays.

Jewellery, with the exception of a small studded earring shouldn't be worn in school. Again, I think we let this slip last year and as a result saw lots of children wearing bangles, rings and necklaces. These are not required and should be left at home.

### **Trainers**

Children should wear trainers for school as these are suitable for PE and for active play.

### **Pumps**

Children should have a pair of pumps (named) to keep in their locker. We will change into them if trainers get wet or muddy.

### **Spare clothing**

We do not change for PE but it can be useful to have a spare pair of joggers / leggings / shorts and a T-shirt which can stay in a carrier bag in your locker just in case. Sometimes children have 'accidents' or get wet/muddy eg if they fall over in the playground, and it's useful to have something to change into.

### **Class Dojo**

Class staff will continue to share photos of learning taking place in class and we hope that these provide a good insight for parents into the learning that is happening in school. Please do continue to engage with Dojo and comment on the class posts – the children enjoy reading the positive comments posted by other parents in their class.

Please remember that any messages related to sickness absence should go to the office not to the class teacher.

### **Parent Pay – Payment and email**

**Dinners:** Children will choose their dinner during morning registration and parents will be billed for the meals daily. Please keep an eye on your account to avoid any build-up of arrears.

**Milk:** Children in Nursery, Reception, year 1 and 2 are provided with milk free of charge. Ms Ashmore will be sending information shortly about milk for KS2 children. It can be purchased via parent pay or provided free of charge if you are in receipt of free school meals.

### **Fruit snacks in KS2**

Children in Reception, years 1 and 2 are provided with fruit free of charge. Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to bring a piece a fruit for a morning snack. Occasionally, if there is excess fruit in school class teachers will share fruit in class to anyone who would like it.

### **Fitness Trail**

Children can use the fitness trail before and after school but MUST be supervised by parents.

### **Attendance**

Please remember that all messages relating to attendance/absence should go directly to the school office and not to the class teacher. Please telephone 0113 2930280, text or email [john.barker@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk](mailto:john.barker@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk) or [Clare.ashmore@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk](mailto:Clare.ashmore@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk).

Please remember that holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a fine.

### **Safeguarding Update:**

#### **Child Protection Procedures**

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy details the in-school procedures in respect to taking any reasonable action to safeguard the welfare of our pupils. This policy, which is reviewed annually by governors and staff, is the Leeds agreed model policy.

In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be suffering significant harm, ill treatment or neglect or other forms of harm, staff will follow the procedures for responding to suspected cases of child abuse outlined in our policy document and contact CSWS Duty and Advice team to discuss their concerns.

### **Operation Encompass – Domestic Abuse Notifications – Information for parents**

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced, any domestic abuse.

Our school receives a telephone call from the police Operation Encompass team whenever a domestic abuse incident is reported to the police. The purpose of the telephone call is to ensure that school is able to liaise with the police and use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to be able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and believe this is extremely beneficial for all those involved.

## **News from our classes**

### **Nursery and Reception.**

Firstly I would like to say hello from all the staff who will be working with your children this year. Everyone is working hard to ensure we have a classroom which is engaging and exciting when your little ones join us on Monday. We cannot wait to have you all back in the classroom – it is a little too quiet at the minute.

### **Nursery**

This half term our topic is 'This is me' so we will be doing lots of activities about ourselves and our friends and family. Starting off next week with painting a self-portrait. We can't



wait to hear all about the special people in your children's lives and what they enjoy doing. The children will also be starting 'Squiggle while you wiggle' which is fun and interactive programme which help strengthen their gross motor skills ready for writing. We did this for the first time last year and the children really enjoyed it. Each day your child will also listen to at least two stories, this week we have been working really hard on making our story session even better and choosing books that will keep the children interested. Creating a love for reading at a young age is the best start to their reading journey. We will also be doing lots and lots of playing which will help us to develop all our skills including social, communication and imagination skills.

A few reminders

Please:

- Remember to send your child into school with a least one pair of spare clothes – put this in a carrier bag as we have named bags in school to keep the spares in.
- Label with your child's name all uniform and spares – this makes it much easier to hand back at the end of the day.
- Bring in a water bottle to stay in school – no straw if possible please
- No rucksacks or bags as this makes the cloakroom busy. If for whatever reason your child needs a rucksack please speak to a member of staff
- No toys from home – this prevents any upset if the toy breaks or is lost

### Tapestry

If you haven't received or returned the tapestry letter please speak to a member of staff– this will allow you to see all the fantastic and existing learning your child has been doing at Nursery.

Finally, we cannot wait to see you and your little one next week and start our amazing early years journey with them.

Any questions please speak to the adult on the door or send a message via class dojo

### Reception

This half term we our topic is 'This is me' so we will be doing lots of activities themed around ourselves and our families including painting a self-portrait, drawing and talking about our families and exploring our senses. We will also explore our school and talk about where we live including a walk around Whinmoor (hopefully). Very soon we will start to learn sounds in our Phonics lessons and we will soon be learning to blend and read. How exciting! In English we are reading lots of different books including 'The tiger who came to tea.' We will be using these books to help us match and write first sounds to pictures.

Writing our name is also something we are working on so helping your child to do this at home would be really useful. In Maths we will be looking in detail at each number 1 to 5. We will use different equipment to explore each number including numicon, ten frames, and shapes. We will also look at composition of these numbers and how we can represent them in different ways. Lots of fun maths challenges and problems will be planned for the children. Please look out for all our existing learning on Class Dojo and celebrate with your child what they have done in school.

All the staff are looking forward to Monday and having your children back in the classroom ready to learn, play and grow. Next week we will be working on routines which may take a while for staff and children to get used to so please bear with us if things are slower than usual.

A few reminders

Please:

- Label with your child's name all uniform and spares – this makes it much easier to hand back at the end of the day.
- Bring in a water bottle to stay in school – no straw if possible please
- No rucksacks or bags as this makes the cloakroom covered. If for whatever reason your child needs a rucksack please speak to a member of staff
- No toys from home – this prevents any upset if the toy breaks or is lost

Just a polite reminder, the phonics meeting is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. This meeting is really useful to support your child in their reading journey through school so it would be good to see lots of you attending the meeting.

Any questions please speak to the adult on the gate or send a message via dojo

### **Nile – Year1**

Welcome to Year 1!

We have had a great first week settling in and getting to know each other. Everyone has settled in well and begun to work hard.

This term our learning is based around Little Red Riding Hood. We will be learning about creatures that live in the woods and all about different trees. We have been reading different versions of the story and particularly enjoyed 'Little Red Reading Hood' and 'Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion.'

I am really impressed with our Maths skills so far! This half term, we will be revising our number facts to 10, practising addition and subtraction and developing our problem solving skills.

In Personal Social Health Education, we will be learning about what makes each of us and other people special.

**Reading books** will go home on Tuesdays and need to be sent back to school on Mondays. Please make sure you read with your child every night. It is really important that we all become confident, fluent readers whilst we are in Year 1.

I will also send home links for Maths Seeds, Spelling Shed and Teach your Monster for us to practice skills at home.

We have lots of exciting learning tasks planned this year. I am looking forward to sharing them with the children and seeing them make great progress.

If you ever have any questions - just ask!

Mrs Driscoll

### **Yangtze – Year 2**

This term, our class topic is Engineers and Inventors. For the first half term, we will be learning about George Stephenson and the history of the railways.

In English, our main texts will be 'Oi! Get off our train!' and 'Rosie Revere, Engineer.' We will be writing a book review, recounts and reports this half term. This half term we will be recapping on the phonics learnt in Year 1 and will become confident in spelling the Year 1

words. Children can practise the Year 1 spellings on Spelling Shed. Usernames and passwords will be in stuck in their reading diary. We will begin our weekly spellings and our spelling test after the half-term holidays. Please continue to read each night and write the pages read in your child's reading diary.

In Maths, we will be reading, writing and comparing 2-digit numbers. We will also be learning to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. We will be developing our understanding of addition and subtraction and will be starting to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. I will set Mathletics tasks each Monday and will also hand out certificates to amazing Mathletes! In Art, we will be drawing and painting steam trains in the style of the artist Lowry. Our Science topic is 'Materials' and we will be describing their properties and will be thinking about their uses. We will carry out lots of investigations including finding out which material would be the most suitable for building a train engine shed.

Our PSHE topic is 'Celebrating Difference' and our MindMate topic is 'Feeling Good and Being Me.' We are practising our footwork and balancing skills everyday in our PE lessons.

### **Danube – Year 3**

This half term, we will be answering the question 'Why are rainforests so important?' We will learn all about where in the world rainforest are, the forests layers and the animals that can be found there. We will also discover why it is important to protect them. We will also visit Roundhay Park and Tropical world.

In English we will be writing expanded noun phrases to enhance descriptive pieces, instructions, postcards, reports and diary entries. We will be working hard on our reading skills and learning new grammar and punctuation. We will have spellings to learn every week.

In numeracy we will be working on Place Value including numbers to a thousand, and working on addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be practicing times tables every day and key skills every week.

In art we will be painting, colour mixing and sketching and painting forest animal.

In PE we will working on our personal coordination skills. We will also have a coach, to teach gymnastics, on Fridays

In science we will be learning all about plants and how they reproduce.

Our PSHE topic is about Physical health and wellbeing were we will learn about keeping our bodies healthy with a balanced diet. We will also be making healthy snacks in class. Our Mind Mate topic is 'Feeling good and being me.'

Please remember to read every day, fill in your diary and bring your book bag to school on Mondays so we can change books.

Homework will be set on Mondays - this will include spellings, Mathletics, TTRockstars and Purple mash tasks.

### **Zambezi – Year 4**

Welcome to Zambezi class! I hope you have all had a great summer and are ready for another school year. This term our topic is 'Water'. We will be finding out how we use water, how much water we use, where water comes from, if all countries have access to

water like us and if water is always helpful to us. We will be linking this to our science topic of 'Solids, Liquids and Gases' where we will be experimenting how these can change state through heating and cooling and finding out about the water cycle.

In maths we begin by working on our number and place value skills. We will be learning the value of each digit of a 4 digit number, finding 10, 100 and 1000 more and less than any given number, rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000 and counting backwards through zero into negative numbers. We will be doing lots of problem solving activities based on these things and we will continue to work on our times tables facts. In our times tables rock stars sessions in class we will particularly be working on our 3, 4 and 8 times table so focus on these ones at home. Please also continue to use Mathletics at home to practise your skills too!

In writing and guided reading we will reading texts linked to our water topic. We will be reading The Water Tower, The Water Horse and some picture books about rivers as well as looking at information texts and poetry linked to water. We will develop our writing skills by writing our own descriptions, reports and diary entries. We will have a spelling session in class every day and our test will be on Friday, look out for the spellings to practise, they will be posted on ClassDojo and spelling shed every Monday.

Zambezi will continue their swimming lessons on a Wednesday up until Christmas. In PE we will be doing REAL PE unit 1 which links to floor movement patterns such as hopscotch, side step and skipping.

In PSHE we will be learning about democracy and our MindMate topic is 'Feeling good and being me.'

Children now have new reading diaries and books, please make sure children read every night and write an 'I wonder' in their reading diary about what they have read. Remember we are competing in class 'readerboard'. We will still be using TTRockstars, Mathletics and SpellingShed for weekly homework. In addition, we will also be setting some research/project based tasks in the coming weeks.

## **Amazon – Year 5**

Welcome to Amazon! This half-term our topic is 'Slavers and Traders'. We will be learning all about trade in the UK and its history. This will involve learning about some sensitive issues linked to slavery. We will move on to learn about inspirational people who were involved in the slave trade such as William Wilberforce and Harriet Tubman.

In art and DT, we will be looking at 'underground railroad quilts' making quilt collages and also a class quilt. In science, we will be studying changing materials and their properties. In RE, we will be studying 'why are some places and journeys special?'. In PSHE we will be studying self-belief and how our feelings affect our actions and others and also stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice (including tackling homophobia).

In PE, we will be working on our personal skills when taking on challenges, improving our reaction time, improving our agility and ball handling skills as well as looking at the game of tennis.

- Please encourage your child to read at home and bring their bookbag in every Monday
- PE is outdoor everyday (except in the case of heavy rain)

## **Mississippi – Year 6**

Welcome back! We have had a fantastic first few days- the children and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other and have fully embraced Year 6. I have a very good feeling about this year already!

Our first topic is Ingleborough/Mountains. We will start off by locating Ingleborough. We will learn about mapping, including contour lines and symbols. We will also find out about different mountain types. This is of course all in preparation for our exciting residential trip to Ingleborough. Let's hope the weather is as fine as it is this week!

When we return from Ingleborough, we will get started with our next topic: 'The Victorians'. In History, we will be looking at Victorian schools, jobs, children, Queen Victoria, inventions, The Industrial Revolution and how Leeds changed during the Victorian times. In Art, we will look at the work of William Morris where we will re-create his work using painting and printing skills. In Science, we will be learning about electricity. In PE we will focus on our personal skills in our REAL PE lessons. In Spanish, we will be learning how to say colours, numbers, greetings and all about life in Spanish speaking countries.

In English, we will be reading The Spider and the Fly, The Highwayman and Oliver Twist. We will be writing a biography, instructions, letters, diary entries and non-chronological reports. In Maths, we will begin with looking at place value and then move onto addition and subtraction. Mrs Turvey will be teaching PE, PSHE and Science on Fridays.

A few reminders:

- Please remember to send your child in with a water bottle and pumps if you haven't already.
- Please check dojo regularly for updates and important information. You have hopefully seen that I do a 'Made my Day' trophy each day and put it on dojo. The children love this!
- Reading books will be handed out on Tuesdays and are due back in the following Monday so that I can check diaries. I love having a chat about the books the children are reading so please ensure your child brings their book bags back in on Mondays. Please see school dojo post for information about our new reading diary challenges.

**Many thanks as always for your continued support  
Mrs Sheerin**