



September 2020

*Dear Parent and Carers*

**Topic:** *Our topic this term is Ancient Maya and we will be exploring evidence to debate the key question: “Ancient Maya: Brilliant or Brutal?” As geographers, the children will explore the Central American Mayan regions where the Ancient Maya came from and understand how geography influences way of life. Through history, we learn about the Ancient Mayans as farmers, astronomers, mathematicians and inventors, as well as the darker side of the civilisation. Using our topic work, we will design and make Guatemalan worry dolls as an end of term art and design and technology project.*

**English:** *In English, we will be reading ‘The boy in the girls bathroom’, by Louis Sachar to inspire our writing and guided reading lessons. We will be exploring who is the real Bradley Chalkers through interpretation and retrieval skills.*

**Maths:** *In maths, we will extend our knowledge of place value to numbers in the millions before looking at negative, prime and composite numbers. Then we will explore properties of number including multiples, factors and common factors. We will consolidate our understanding of formal written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.*

**Science:** *We have two science topics this term. The first is earth and space and we hope inter alia to compare our modern day understanding of the Universe with that of the Ancient Maya. After half term, we will learn about forces. Much of the children’s understanding will come from practical hands on activities and investigations.*

**PE:** *All Year 5 classes will have swimming lessons during the autumn term, date yet to be confirmed. Banksy and Dali classes will have PE lessons on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings (except during weeks that these classes are swimming). Please*

could children come into school in the PE kits for both of these days. If possible, please wash the P.E. for the Tuesday P.E. session. Please remember that all children will need to be wearing PE kit suitable for all weathers. As with previous years, all children will be expected to participate unless a written explanation from you is provided.

**Homework:** English homework will typically be a grammar worksheet or reading comprehension exercise. It will be sent home on Fridays and will be due in on Wednesdays. Spellings will go home on Fridays and will be tested on Monday mornings. Maths homework will be set via Mathletics, an online platform that can be accessed on all devices using log in details which can be found in your child's homework diary. Mathletics will require specific tasks to be completed by your child each week. These tasks will allow your child to consolidate their recent learning as well as facilitate practice of Race for Recall targets.

As a side note, please provide children with a pair of wellie boots. As due to social distancing measures, playtimes are likely to be on the field regardless of weather.

With kind regards,

Miss Crawford and Miss Hodges