



# YEAR 5

## Spring Term Newsletter 2023

I hope this newsletter finds you well and you are pumped and excited about the Spring Term. Last Term was full with lots of enriching learning and our aim is to continue to create an inspiring learning environment within in the classroom as well as on fun-filled trips and workshops.

If you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Year 5 team on the following email address:

[y@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:y@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk)

### Topic

Welcome to Mexico! Get ready to explore this unique country, from its towering temples and stunning geography to its pulsing rhythms and fun festivals. Is your tummy rumbling? We will be finding out about the local cuisine and designing a delicious Mexican meal.

We will then be discovering the mysterious world of the ancient Mayan civilisation and the tale of the Mayan Creation Story.

We also plan to dress up and get into character where we will then learn how to make their hot chocolate and give it a taste – beware it may be hot! We will then learn their poetry, play their ball game pok-ta-pok as well as follow some of their rituals.

Hold on tight and get ready to explore all things Mexico!



### Maths

During this term, we will be looking at multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and percentages. Throughout the Spring Term, we will also be recapping and plugging any gaps we identified from our Autumn Assessments.

#### Multiplication & Division

$$7 \times 3 = 7 + 7 + 7 = 21$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \times 15 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ \times 42 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ 3 \overline{) 105} \\ \underline{9} \\ 15 \\ \underline{15} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Decimals, Percentages and Fractions

Fraction	Percentage	Decimal
1 whole	100%	1
$\frac{1}{2}$	50%	0.5
$\frac{1}{3}$	33.3%	0.33
$\frac{1}{4}$	25%	0.25
$\frac{1}{5}$	20%	0.2
$\frac{1}{6}$	16.7%	0.167
$\frac{1}{8}$	12.5%	0.125
$\frac{1}{10}$	10%	0.1
$\frac{1}{12}$	8.3%	0.083

We loved the excitement TT Rockstars brought to the Autumn Term and we hope this will continue throughout the Spring Term and beyond. By the end of the year, our expectation is that your child will know all their times tables by rote and be able to answer questions in under 2 seconds. Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts.

If you need any further support, you can head over to White Rose, which is the scheme of work we follow at school.

### English

English this term, starts with a journey tale set in Mexico featuring Akna a mother living poor whose dream is to send her child to school. When she hears of some golden bricks in the mountains, her adventure will take us through the Mexican jungle facing many obstacles along the way. Next, have you heard of the Kraken? It times to get excited, as we will explore Tennyson's poem about the mysterious creature that lurked in the Ocean! This inspiring poem will get everyone excited about poetry. Finally, we will complete our trio of Talk for Writing units with a persuasive text, which will discuss If a Native American Burial Ground should have been allowed to become a shopping centre?

Alongside T4W, we will be teaching a variety of grammar lessons, including prefixes and suffixes, recognising and using relative clauses as well as how to show degrees of possibility using modal verbs.

We have rotated around our Guided Reading books, so please ask your child what they are reading next!

## **Routines and Reminders**

**PE days** – PE with Coach Shona will remain on Tuesdays. A reminder that if children wish to come to school in their PE kit they should be wearing their school tracksuit (navy - with or without the logo), white t-shirt and black trainers. We will continue our additional PE session on Mondays. This will be taught by one of class teachers and involve a range of activities that promote fitness as well as to improve skill levels. Please can the children come to school that day in full school uniform but we ask that they wear their black trainers. Can I take this opportunity to remind you to ensure that the children are organised for their learning by being on time for school and wearing the appropriate uniform so they are comfortable, safe, and able to take part in the PE lessons.

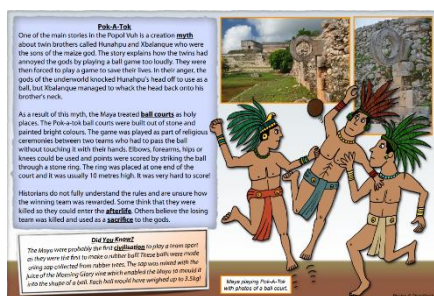
## **Homework**

**Weekly spellings:** These can be found on the school website (under the main heading Curriculum and Assessment and drop down to English) and the children will be tested every Friday.

**Daily reading:** We ask that all children read for 20-30 mins daily. This will have a huge impact on their learning across the curriculum. Please encourage your child to read a variety of genres and include non-fiction texts. Reading with your child, or asking comprehension questions on the texts they have read is also another good way to boost their skills.

**Times Tables Rock Stars:** We are encouraging all children to play Studio 10 times per session. Once they have completed this, many children say they like to play Festival or Arena, which allows them to complete against any member of the school who is currently online. Additionally, children could send their friends Rockslams – this is a way to challenge their skills. We recommend no more than 10 minutes a day to limit screen time.

**Google Classroom:** If you wish to do some extra work with your child at home then you can head over to Google Classroom where there will be Maths, SPAG and English. The homework usually relates to the learning we have done that week or a focus we have identified.



**Topic Project:** As part of our Hola Mexico! Topic, we would like the children to make a Pok-a-Tok court. We will be learning about this traditional game in our lessons, but feel free to get a head start by using this link to research what the game involved and what the court would have looked like. You may use any medium – so be creative!

<http://mayankids.com/mmpeople/mkballgame.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKvQjgC9slY>

## **What else will be happening in the Curriculum?**

### **RE**

During our RE lessons in Spring Term 1, we will be focussing on commitment and the different commitments people make for their religion and in Spring 2 will we focus on Peace and what that looks like in regards to religion.

### **PSHE**

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at Dreams and Goals and Healthy Choices.

### **Art & DT**

Mr Hayn will be focusing on Mayan art where they will be making Mayan celebratory and funerary masks to support our Topic Hola Mexico! Then in D&T, we will be making Mexican musical instruments.

### **Music**

Ms Mahony will be focussing on rhythm and beat work. The children will be reading from graphic scores (pictures of sound), standard notation, incorporating listening, playing as an ensemble, improvising and composing. They will be singing songs and re-tuning their ears and vocal chords.

### **Spanish**

In Spanish, we will be looking at features on the human body, hobbies and sports concluding with animals.

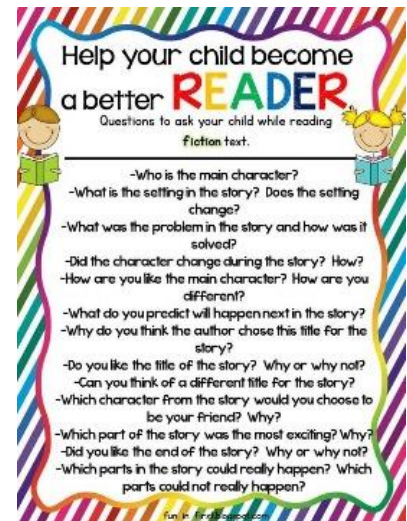
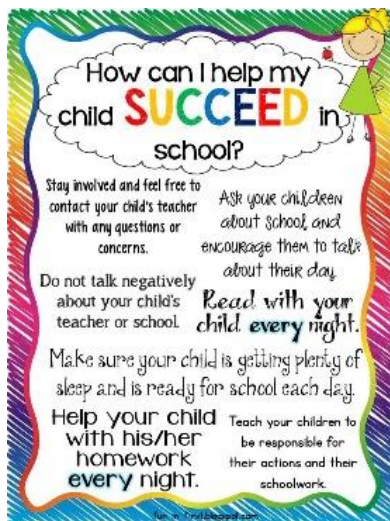
### **Science**

Our Science topic is Living things and their habitats. Within this unit, we will study Naturalist including David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. We will take a deep look into Metamorphosis and conclude with a human timeline and gestation periods. In Spring 2, we will investigate Animals, including humans.

### **Computing**

This unit will teach the children how to use Audacity software as an introduction to sound recording where they will learn how to select and record their own podcast about something they are passionate about. They will then learn about advertising - how they can promote a podcast and the importance of advertising in radio.

## How to help your child



## Educational Visits

We have booked a trip to London Zoo in April to support our Science unit and learn more about habitats ready for the children to design their own. We will host an NSPCC Speak Out & Stay Safe workshop, which will remind the children how to be safe online and how to deal with social situation in person. This term is also the time for our 10-day intense swimming sessions (dates and information has been shared with relevant classes).