

Year 5 Advent 1 Newsletter

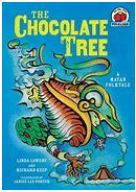
Welcome back to a new school year, I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break and are ready to be back at school. We have lots of exciting things planned for Year 5 this term, including making and tasting Mayan food and learning about life cycles!

English

This half term as writers, we will be using Mayans as the theme of our writing. We will be focusing on:

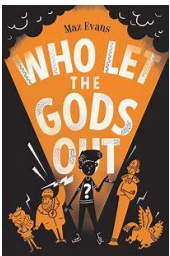
Explanation Text

Our first piece of writing will be an explanation text about how chocolate is made. This will link to our Mayan topic and involve the researching process, identifying and rehearsing the features of an explanation text, and finally writing and editing an explanation text.



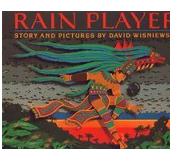
Narrative

Our second piece of writing will be a narrative based on the Mayan God's. We will be using the book, 'Who let the God's out' to inform our narrative. We will be focusing on descriptive writing, particularly character and setting description, using ambitious language and vocabulary.



Diary

Our final piece of writing will be a diary entry. We will be using the book, 'The Rain Player' and writing a diary entry in role as the main character from the text, Pik. This provides opportunities to focus on and discuss characters feelings and emotions generated lots of detailed character descriptions and emotive language.



Maths

In Maths, this half term we will be using White Rose Maths. As Mathematicians, we will be focusing on:

- Place Value
- Efficient methods for adding and subtracting multiples of 10, 100 and 1000.
- Rounding numbers.
- Formal written methods for adding and subtracting numbers up to 100,000.

As mathematicians, we will also be focusing on our times table knowledge, mathematical vocabulary and our reasoning skills.

R.E

Our focus for RE this half term will be Ourselves and Life Choices. In these units we will be looking at what makes us, us. How we are all unique and all one as part of God's family. We will also be looking at how we can make sure we are living as God wants us to and trying to do the right thing even in difficult circumstances.



Who were the Mayans?

Our History topic this term will focus on the Mayan Civilisation. Throughout this topic we will have a keen History focus looking at festivals, monuments and food. Here is an outline of our learning for this half term:

In week one, as **historians**, we will be looking at where in the world the Mayan Civilisation existed and we will create a timeline of important events that occurred during this time.

In week two, as **historians**, we will research how the Mayans transported goods and look at the things they traded with others.

In week three, as **historians**, we will research Mayan festivals paying particular attention to the popular Day of the Dead festival.

Week four finds us researching and tasting popular Mexican cuisine. We will then create a Mexican menu and create some of the Mexican dishes ourselves. As well as this, we will discover why maize and chocolate were an integral part of the Mayan diet. We will use the story of the 'Chocolate Tree' to support our learning.

In week five, as **historians**, we will be learning about famous Mayan monuments and temples, such as Chichen Itza. We will use various sources such as: photographs, diary entries and Google Earth to explore these wonderful places and understand their purpose.

In week six, as **historians**, we will research the different Mayan Gods and the roles they played in the life of Mayan people. We will then create our own set of Top Trump cards for these Mayan Gods.

Life Cycles

Our science topic this half term is all about life cycles. We will be looking at the different life cycles of different plants and animals. First, we will look at the different ways plants can pollinate, including using wind, birds and bees. Then, we will be looking at how mammals reproduce and how long the babies of the mammals stay with their parents. After this, we will move on to looking at the life cycles of other animals, including frogs, chickens, butterflies and fish.

The main outcome of this unit is for children to be able to understand how different plants and animals reproduce and can name and label different parts of plants and animals.



Guided Reading

Our Guided Reading text for this half term is *Why the Whales Came* by Michael Morpurgo. As readers, we will be reading this text as a class and answering a range of different questions relating to this text. We will be paying particular attention to retrieval questions and considering the authors choice to support our understanding of the text.

This fantastic book follows the adventures of some children on a remote island. It includes suspicious characters, a curse and lots of exciting events. Gracie and her friend Daniel have always been warned to stay away from the Birdman and his side of the island. But then they find a message in the sand and discover the Birdman is not who they thought. They build up a lovely friendship with him, but when the children get stranded on Samson Island, they don't know whether to believe the birdman's story that the island is cursed.

How can you help?

Weekly Homework

- Homework will be set on a Friday and will need to be completed by the following Friday. If you have any trouble accessing homework online or would prefer a paper copy, please see me and I can arrange this for you.
- Every week your child will receive spellings. The spelling test will take place on a Friday morning. Please practise these spellings with your child at home!
- Spelling Shed – please ensure your child is accessing this regularly at home, there are certificates and rewards for children who access this! If your child has misplaced their login, please let me know.
- TT Rockstars – please ensure your child is accessing this regularly at home too, it is extremely important that they regularly practice and apply their multiplication and division knowledge.
- Remember to read every night with your child and sign their diary too!

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions about your child's learning or progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Miss Beach