

SPINFIELD SCHOOL

Year Six Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Spring Term and a Happy New Year to you all!

Please remember that we do have a class email address which can be used for the following:

- ✓ Arranging an appointment with your child's class teacher
- ✓ Arrangements for volunteering in class (particularly if these are subject to change)
- ✓ Time to Talk/Creative Corner presentations
- ✓ Queries regarding homework or spellings

Please note that information regarding absences must still be communicated via the school office, via a phone message. The above email address will not be monitored daily, so please continue to use home-school books where appropriate to communicate urgent information, such as changes to pick up arrangements. If these arrangements change on the day, please contact the school office.

This term we are embarking on a topic of Exploration!

To start the topic, our **BIG** question is:

WOULD YOU RUN TOWARDS SOUTH AMERICA OR RUN AWAY FROM IT?

To finish our topic our end product will be:

TO CREATE A PERSUASIVE ADVERT AND TRAVEL BROCHURE

Subject	1 st half term	2 nd half term
English	Text: Journey to the River Sea Reading: Research on the Mayan civilisation and rainforests; reading the texts and answering comprehension questions; reading rain forest poetry. Writing: Role on the wall and story mapping; plotting a journey; writing descriptions of settings and characters; travel brochure to persuade people to visit; information leaflet about South America; letter from a character; and rainforest poetry.	
Maths	Mayan number system, Place value, negative numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, decimal calculations, averages, co-ordinates, data, algebra.	Patterns and relationships, area, perimeter, shapes, ratio, proportion, long multiplication, long division, arithmetic (consolidation of all methods of number).
Science	Evolution, inheritance and selection: identifying special features which help animal survival, Darwin's Theory of Evolution.	Light: understanding the workings of the eye including refraction, reflection, colours and shadows.
Computing	Blogging: understanding the purpose for writing blogs and contributing to a class blog linked to the EXPLORE topic.	Using iMovie to create an advert to persuade people to travel to South America Using Book Creator to produce a travel brochure .
Humanities	DISCOVER the Mayan civilisation and the impact on modern society. EXPLORE the continent of South America using maps and atlases, identifying the climates, trade, industry, human and physical features. Investigate the Amazon river and rain forest. Carry out an in-depth study of a South American country.	
Art/DT	Artist study: Frederick Catherwood Investigating the foods the Mayans ate and making tortillas.	A Sense of Place, linking learning to the Rainforests Making Chilean rain sticks.

PE	South American Dance Football	Gymnastics – vaulting Football
Music	Mrs Lee to lead the music lessons focusing on pitch, timbre, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture and structure through learning a musical instrument.	Mrs Lee to lead the music lessons focusing on pitch, timbre, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture and structure through learning a musical instrument.
RE/PSHE	Growth Mindset: we will be exploring brain physiology and the concept of mindful attention.	Growth Mindset: we will be exploring brain physiology and the concept of mindful attention.
French	Colours and other adjectives Clothes	Comparing pounds and euro Present tense of “er” verbs

To enhance the children’s learning this term, and aid their transition into secondary school by increasing their awareness of personal safety, we will be visiting Hazard Alley on 16th March. There will be a SATs information evening on 20th January 2020, at 3:45pm.

General Organisation:

Absence:

Please ring school every day if your child is absent, unless you have previously notified us of a return date. If you have not contacted school by **9.20am** a member of staff will contact you. You are not required to supply a note if you have contacted the school.

Homework:

We value the support of parents in providing the time, encouragement and suitable environment for the children in which to complete their homework. In setting homework for children, we aim to provide a relevant activity for them to do in which parents may be involved, and which can aid their general educational progress. Homework will be set on a Wednesday and will need to be returned to school on a Monday morning.

Homework is outlined below:

Spellings, daily reading, times tables, reading comprehension, English and Maths (for consolidation of learning objectives).

Additional homework tasks include activities set by the teacher, using Purple Mash.

Parent volunteers:

I have detailed days and times when parental support is required in class. If you are able to support in school during these times, please contact your class rep who will add you to the rota.

Group Reading on Monday morning

Forest School on Friday morning

DBS checks

Please note that the school requires all volunteers to hold a current DBS certificate and you will need to sign our confidentiality agreement. Volunteers are also required to attend safeguarding training (which will need to be refreshed every 3 years). Training dates will be published in our monthly newsletter. If you have not yet filled out the DBS form and the confidentiality agreement, please collect them from the office. There will be a voluntary contribution of £15.00 to cover costs incurred to process the DBS application.

Please ensure that all letters or slips returned to school go directly to the class teacher via the book bag; please do not return them through the school office.

Daily organisation:

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school every day, as well as a snack of fruit or vegetables for the mid-morning break (KS2 only).

It is essential that children have a warm coat to wear during the morning break and lunch hour.

It is imperative that all items of clothing and PE kit are clearly labelled (preferably sewn-on labels). If your child does not have his/her full PE kit (including appropriate socks) they may not be able to take part in the lesson. Please feel free to instruct your child to bring kit home to be laundered as required, however, please ensure that it is in school on PE days.

Timetable Information:

PE lessons are on a Tuesday and a Friday. During the winter months you may want to provide tracksuit bottoms for any outdoor P.E. that we do.

If for any reason your child is unable to take part in a PE or games lesson, please provide a note.

Year 6 will have their group reading session on Monday, commencing on 13th January. Please continue to support this; the children do still need adults to come into school to listen to them read and discuss the texts with them.

Library books will be changed on a Friday. All library books will be collected in during the penultimate week of term.

Forgotten Items:

Please be aware that if your child forgets something for school, you will only be contacted if it is absolutely necessary, as we are trying to encourage the children's independence. Any calls home will incur a 50 pence charge.

Medicines:

Children must not bring medicines of any kind into school without prior agreement with Miss Spreadbury. A health care form must be completed for any required administration of medication.

Holidays:

The staff and governing body appreciate the decision made by parents not to take children out of school during term time. Where exceptional circumstances occur, a leave of absence form can be collected from Miss Spreadbury who will submit your application to the Governing Body for consideration.

School Governor Class link:

In order that the school governors can gain closer links with the pupils and staff, we have attached a governor to each of the classes in the school. He/she will endeavour to make at least one visit to their class during the term and will support the class teacher by working with the children sharing his/her expertise in a relevant area or accompanying a school visit.

If you wish to discuss the content of this letter or have any other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me using the class email address (yearsix@spinfieldschool.co.uk).

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year Six team