

Year 5 Newsletter

22.2.18

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week Year 5 we were lucky enough to have been visited by Dr Oza. As part of our Topic 'Where does our food comes from?' we discussed the very important and relevant question 'How does what we eat affect our health?' Children generated their own questions in advance to ask the Dr and we all recorded notes in order to produce some extended written pieces.



We are currently exploring 'Adventure stories' and the children have already come up with some fantastic descriptions for their stories, whilst becoming experts using a dictionary and thesaurus. We are always encouraging the children to look for opportunities to 'up level' their description, often by using a thesaurus to find a more appropriate synonym. In addition we are promoting the statement that 'The dictionary is our best friend' in order for everyone to limit the number of spelling errors we are seeing.

When we returned from Half Term we were astonished to see that some of our tulip plants had literally taken over! When Mr McMahon opened his darkened cupboard, he had to take a step back from what seemed like 'The Day of The Triffids!' It was remarkable that the plants intentionally placed in the dark room had grown significantly (although erratically) and had even produced flowers.

It proved that our experiment had been a success and following a year group discussion we shared whether our predictions were correct, what our theories for the results were and how we could change the experiment to test unanswered and new questions.



Bulbs in shade

bulbs in sunlight

Bulbs kept in a dark cupboard

The experience and knowledge the children have acquired will help them design their new investigation involving growing cress. They will decide on the purpose of the experiment and the most purposeful variables.

Some children have been busy building on their maths learning at school by logging onto Mathletics and having fun whilst increasing their confidence - particularly in mental arithmetic.

All Year 5 pupils have now been issued with their own usernames and passwords and have logged in at school to make sure their 'logins' are correct. Please ask them to show you how they use it, as any encouragement they receive to use this at home could help to increase their success in maths.



Supporting learning at home

In addition to practising and becoming masters at quick recall times tables, we are also encouraging children to become more confident with their mental arithmetic. Many of us have been identifying the skills involved in problem solving, such as prioritising information, working systematically and breaking it into smaller parts. Where possible please ask your children quick fire maths problems, for example, if you are in the Supermarket, you could ask how much 3 of a particular item would cost, or questions to do with time such as. If we spend 2.5 hours at the Shopping Centre, what time should we arrive home?

Homework

Children have been given their weekly homework - please ensure it is returned by Monday.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,
Mr Wells, Mr McMahon, Mrs Tong and Mrs Malam.