

Dear Parents of Michaelmas Daisies,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter, and I hope you have heard about some of the things we did last half-term. It was a short one unfortunately, but we managed to fit a lot in, looking at the changes that happen when we grow up and 'travel through time'. We also had a fantastic book study on 'The Barnabus Project', and you will have seen the 'Perfect Pets' we made and packaged.

### What are we doing?



This term our topic is 'Alchemy Island' and we have already had our WOW day, as I hope you have heard. (The surprise was part of the fun, which is why we did it on the first day without notice!) I hope the children enjoyed it, they certainly seemed to, please ask them about it if you haven't already been told.

We will be looking at 'alchemy' and properties and changes in materials, so the topic will be very practical (hurray!) and science based. There is also a big chunk to do on geography and mapping skills (hurray!) so we will be able to put our excellent orienteering skills and knowledge to use.

In English, we will be looking at narrative writing, drawn from the theme of alchemy, non-chronological reports linked to the science aspect and a range of poetic forms such as cinquains and sonnets. Shall I compare thee to a summer rose?

As a class reader, we are still reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, which is continuing over from our last topic. I know some of the children have read this, but many haven't and I don't think anyone will mind too much because it's ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT and anyway, I haven't finished it either. I think I will probably cry at the end.



In maths we are in the middle of a big chunk of work on fractions, and we will soon be doing some work on position and direction, linked to our topic work on maps.

### PE days and homework

Our PE days will be Thursday and Friday, so children will need to come to school in PE kit. On Thursday we do PE in the hall. Children will need pumps to work on apparatus, as per our school policy, for safety reasons. However, at the moment we are doing floor work so if you don't have pumps at the moment, don't worry. We will be moving onto apparatus in a couple of weeks or so, so I will remind the children. Pumps are fine for outdoor PE too.

Homework will continue to be set on Fridays, so please make sure it is returned on Thursday so I can check it is done. I will provide paper copies of the homework, but occasionally I also put up activities on our Google classroom to support homework or work in class. If you are able to use this, that's great, but if it is difficult please do not feel obliged to do so, it is extra.

Before the end of next week, I will send out a sheet with ideas for homework projects linked to our topic. These ideas are just suggestions. If you want to choose a different project linked to the topic, please feel free to do so, and to speak to me if you feel you need to or if I can help. The quality of the projects produced so far has been absolutely fantastic, and I think the most important thing is for

the children to enjoy learning independently about a subject that is of particular interest to them (that doesn't mean you can't help them, you are allowed to have fun too!).

#### Books for Topics: 50 Recommended Reads

Many of the children have borrowed books from our brand new reading treasure chest, which contains the 50 recommended reads for year 5 and 6 pupils, from Books for Topics. As mentioned in the letter that was uploaded to the school website about this challenge, the idea is that children challenge themselves to read all of these books, or as many as they can, during their time in the year group. As this challenge was only recently launched, this year it is there to provide the children with a range of high quality texts to read, providing them with an appropriate level of challenge for their age, for the remainder of the school year. I hope that they are enjoying the books, and that they are helping children to 'get back in to reading' after their time at home, when a variety of books may not have been as freely available to them.

Regular reading is so important for all of the children, and really does make a difference in their ability to read and comprehend across the curriculum, all the way through their school life! Please encourage your children to read five times a week at home, as per homework expectations. Fluency and comprehension are areas of focus for us, following our time out of school, so the more practice they can do at home, the better! Thank you for your support.

#### SATs Companion/TT Rockstars

Please remember that the children can use TT Rockstars to support their learning at home.



#### KS3 transition (For Year 6 pupils)

On the afternoon of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Sue Gilbert, deputy head teacher of Glossopdale School, will be visiting school to speak to myself and Mr Ford, and during this time the Year 6 children will participate in a 'Take Part' interactive transition workshop. This is part of the transition process from Glossopdale School, and we will keep you informed of any further arrangements from St Phillip Howard and New Mills Schools, as we receive information about them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Doyle