



# WINHILLS

## Year 5 and Year 6

### Fortnightly Newsletter

#### Year 5

Since half term, Year 5 have been working hard on developing and securing their number skills whilst revising key areas of shape and space, including angles, properties of shapes (triangles and quadrilaterals in particular), symmetry and coordinates.

In English, the children have enjoyed reading our new class novel, *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*, and have been using it as a stimulus for lots of guided reading and writing sessions, including writing diaries, letters and persuasive arguments, including writing in role as the characters.

In Science, we completed our topic on Properties and their Materials, with an investigation on reversible and irreversible changes, which included making casein plastic. We have since started our new topic on Forces, and the children have been exploring lots of new vocabulary, whilst finding out what a force is.

#### Year 6

Since half term, the class has been learning about coordinates in Maths. They are now very confident to read and plot these in all four quadrants (involving negative numbers) as well as translating (moving) and reflecting shapes. At the same time, they have been practising their arithmetic skills and are improving their scores week by week.

In English, the children have been writing in several different genres from imaginative descriptions and emotional pieces inspired by an old man's memories through to information texts about The Gunpowder Plot and how to carry out a scientific investigation. As a class, we have also started reading *'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom'* by Louis Sachar.

In Science, the focus has been on microorganisms as we have continued to monitor the growth of mould in our bread experiment and have also investigated the conditions that yeast needs to grow.

#### Foundation Subjects

Year 5 have been exploring our history and geography unit by creating (and tea-staining) newspapers about the events in Pompeii in 79AD. We have since started to find out more about earthquakes and how they are measured. The children have also enjoyed our music sessions, where we have been using our bodies to create percussive rhythms. Year Six are really enjoying French on Friday afternoons with Mrs Street. As well as understanding and speaking the language, Miss Smith was hugely impressed that they were learning to write sentences which included relative clauses! In the 'Extreme Earth' topic, the children have loved learning about earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes, and they also made their own 'Big Wave' art inspired by the famous Japanese artist called Hokusai.

#### Reminders

Thank you for sending the children in PE kit each Wednesday and reminding them to bring their water bottles each day. Please also remember to send the children with a coat each day as the weather is quite changeable and sometimes quite wet and cold. Can we also stress the importance that the children line up sensibly before school each morning, particularly once Year 6 have started their lessons at 8:30am. Can you ensure your Year 5 children are patiently waiting to enter the class at 8:45am, as by playing games/running around outside, they can be a large distraction to the classes who are starting work earlier.

**Homework:** a reminder that English homework is set on a Wednesday and needs to be returned the following Monday. This will include both a written and a spelling task. Maths whizz will continue from Monday-Sunday (45 minutes), plus 15 minutes of TT Rock Stars. Children need to be reading at home for at least 15 minutes per day. Homework is particularly important this term to support the children in catching up on learning missed last term.

Nurture

Inspire

Flourish