

Year 5 Spring Newsletter:

Search for the Mayans



As part of our whole school Big Idea – Portal to the Past - Year 5 will be learning all about the ancient civilisation, The Mayans. We will undertake lots of enquiry based activities to learn who the Mayans were, how their empire grew, what daily life was like and what happened to their empire in the end. We will also consider the impact the Mayans had on our lives today, especially in term of delicious treats, as well as explore Mayan beliefs.

Science

We will explore the difference between reversible and irreversible changes. We will be investigating different ways that we can separate mixtures of materials.



Through our Science lessons, we will also learn about the key scientists and inventors of a significant stationary product, the Post-It Note, Arthur Fry and Spencer Silver.

Homework



Reading

It is expected that your child reads at home at least 3 times a week. If they do not read at home, they may be asked to stay in at playtime to read with an adult.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Monday and the children will be tested on a Friday. Please practice these with your children at home. Children are expected to practice their spellings on Spelling Shed at least 3 times a week. If they cannot access this at home, they can come to one of the clubs on a lunchtime.

Times tables

Your child will be tested on their times tables regularly in school. Children are expected to practice their times tables on TT Rockstars at least 3 times a week. If they cannot access this at home, they can come to one of the clubs on a lunchtime.

Knowledge organisers

Knowledge organisers will be sent home at the beginning of each new topic. Please look through these with your children and challenge each other to learn the facts and key information on them.

History

In History, we will learn who the Mayans were and the period of history they occupied. We will explore factors that aided them in growing their empire and consider what daily life was like at the time. Furthermore, we will look at a range of sources and consider how we know about the Mayans today. Over time the Mayan Empire dwindled and we will explore possible reasons for this based on historians' findings, before drawing our own conclusions. Finally, will we learn about Mayan beliefs and their human sacrifices.

PE and Games

PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Year 5 will be doing team games, basketball, dance and rugby in the Spring Term.

Topic Launch

During launch day we will become code breakers as we explore the Mayan number and writing systems. We will be making our very own Mayan inspired artwork using a range of media.



Geography

We will locate the ancient Mayan civilisation on a world map before considering the physical and human geographical features of the area. We will consider the importance of land use as the Mayan Empire grew.



Art

In art we will study the artwork of the Mayans and its importance in helping us know what life was like for them. We will then learn how to print and develop our skills in this new technique, monotype.



French

We will be learning about the Romans and the weather.

DT

We will prepare and cook food using ingredients eaten by the Mayans. We will also taste a range of chocolates and evaluate them in terms of their texture, taste and flavour.

Class Novels

