

January 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are writing to share with you an overview of the topics that your child will be learning in the first half of the Spring term in Years 5 and 6. At Castle Park, we value the important partnership between home and school. Please use the information below to support your child with their learning over the coming weeks.

Thank you for the effort that is put into reading with your child at home. This is the key to developing skills across the curriculum and the more you can do, the more your child will be able to improve the speed and depth with which they learn. Remember to talk to your child about what they are reading as well as listening to them – the type of questions that need an explanation should be combined with fact finding questions.

We expect all children to attempt their Friday Challenges and are happy if family members help children complete the Challenge they have selected.

If you have any questions about the information below, please feel free to make an appointment or call into school and see us.

Thank you for your continuing support.

*The Upper Key Stage Two Team*

<b>Curriculum area</b>	<b>Topics, ideas and skills for development this half term.</b>	<b>Homework ideas linked to the curriculum areas.</b>
<b>English</b> 	Autobiographies and Biographies Arguments and Debates Grammar and Punctuation	Your child will still be expected to read for at least 15 minutes each evening. You can also help your child by discussing what they have read.  Your child will have a login to 'Spelling Shed' – a great programme for developing children's spelling – please encourage them to visit the site and try the challenges there.
<b>Mathematics</b> 	Perimeter and Area Multiplying and division Decimals Fractions and percentages	Try the maths games and activities at: 'Times Table Rockstars'  Year 6 children may receive additional maths homework to help consolidate important skills and to build mental arithmetic speed.
<b>Science</b> 	Space – Beyond our Solar System Studying the history of space exploration and designing their own rocket.	Check the 'Newsround' website for child-friendly articles detailing the latest space news.  Look at the Friday Challenge sheet for further learning suggestions.

<p><b>History</b></p> 	<p>Anglo-Saxons and Vikings</p>	<p>Investigate runic writing (the alphabet of the Vikings) and have a go at writing messages using a stick or feather. Investigate the story of 'Beowulf' (a number of child-friendly versions can be found on the internet). This is one of the earliest stories from the time of the Anglo-Saxons.</p>
<p><b>Art and Design</b></p> 	<p>Design your own Anglo-Saxon house</p>	<p>Investigate Anglo-Saxon houses and have a go at making a model of your own at home.</p>
<p><b>PE</b></p> 	<p>Yoga and Outdoor and Adventurous Activities</p>	<p>Please make sure your child has our school P.E. kit: black or blue shorts and a plain white t-shirt.  P.E will be on Tuesday and Friday for all three classes this half term.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> 	<p>"Make you feel my love" – and music in a pop ballad style  Composing and improvisation using instruments</p>	<p>Listen to the two versions of this song , by Bob Dylan and Adele. Try to describe the performances, using musical vocabulary.</p>
<p><b>RE</b></p> 	<p>What is happiness and how can I find it?  Religious and non-religious responses to the question of what makes us happy.</p>	<p>Try keeping a 'gratitude diary' for a week – writing down three things each day that you are grateful for.</p>
<p><b>ICT and Computing</b></p> 	<p>Web Design  Using LOGO programming</p>	<p>Think about your favourite websites and the features that make them user friendly.</p>
<p><b>Global Awareness</b></p> 	<p>Issues around Immigration  Why do people chose to leave their country of birth? What are the challenges to the immigrant and the receiving country?</p>	<p>Talk to your child about any family history you may have that involves moving from one place, or country, to another.</p>
<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> 	<p>How can we get on when we do not agree?</p>	<p>Talk to your child about strategies for conflict resolution including compromise.</p>

**Dates for your diary:**

**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February - STEM workshops hosted by Lancaster University**

**Engineering Department**

**1/2/19 - Walking to KKS to listen to a string quartet performance**