



# Year 5 Newsletter - Autumn Term 1

## Water - Danger, hazard, risk or saviour?

Welcome to a new year at Orchard Junior School. We trust you have had an enjoyable break and that your children are raring to get on with their first half-term in Year 5 ! We are so excited to have them all back and are keen to get back to busy life at Orchard. Our work this term will be based around water, where we will be learning about the water cycle, features of rivers (including a field trip to Blashford Lakes) and how rivers are used and impact the landscape both in our country and worldwide. We will be visited by a speaker from a local charity, The Kisoboka Trust, where we will learn about their efforts to bring safe water sources to countries in Africa. The children will become aware of the far-reaching impact on children their age when clean water is not accessible to them. This will lead to a fund raising activity in which we consider the distances some children have to travel to collect water on a daily basis. All of this will link to our science work on the properties of water and how we can separate materials. It's a brilliant cross-curricular topic and we are excited to get going!

### Dates – some of these are provisional, dependant upon COVID advice at the time:

- Water Warrior fundraising day –Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October
- Fieldwork trips to Blashford Lakes, Ringwood (another letter to follow)
  - 5TT –Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September
  - 5JF- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
  - 5TB- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Osmington Bay meeting for parents and carers – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 6pm. More details to follow.
- Christingle Service at St Andrews church (parents invited): 10.45am, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December (tbc and sorry to mention Christmas!)

### **Dressing-up days:**

1. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October - all in blue clothes for our charity Water Walk or, if you're adventurous, come as a water-based superhero!
2. Victorian clothes - 2nd December (Victorian school day)

### **Extended learning opportunity:**

Carry out some research about a river in the world. How could you present it? Maybe a model, a poster, a book or a Powerpoint presentation! Bring it in to show us – this needs to be in by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This is an optional project.

### **Literacy:**

During the first three weeks, the children will be using the story line from "Kensuke's Kingdom" to help write diary entries, in role as the main character. They will work hard on the process of editing their work, aiming to improve their initial attempts at writing. In the second half of this half-term, they will look at a range of published leaflets and how they are visually presented to persuade the reader to visit, change their behaviour or make a donation. This will lead to the children researching, drafting and publishing their own leaflets about the local charity, The Kisoboka Trust, in which they will explain why they are trying to raise money to bring safe water to a village in Africa.

The children will be reading non-fiction texts in Guided Reading to support their geography knowledge. They will also be involved in reading and performing a range of poems. As a class, we will enjoy sharing Kensuke's Kingdom, by Michael Morpurgo; this is always a firm favourite with the children and may be something you would like to read alongside them at home.

**Maths:** In maths, we will begin the term by taking part in a range of exciting maths investigations, both inside and outside of the classroom. This will give the children to opportunity to work with a partner, sharing and discussing their ideas and findings before presenting their learning and conclusions. From week 2, our lessons will focus on number (place value) and in particular, calculating and problem solving with addition, and subtraction. We will then explore statistics, both collecting our data and considering how it can best be presented and interpreted. Each day we have a mental maths session to improve the speed and recall of children's number facts. Times-tables play a vital role in all areas of maths and children will have a test each Friday to progress through the different stages. Practising their tables is part of their homework and we would encourage your support with this as their knowledge forms the bedrock of much of the maths they will do for the remainder of their time at Orchard. There are many websites on line with games to help with this, and ideally, by now, the children should know all of their tables to 12x12. We have given them all logins for Times Tables Rock Stars- this is something they can do at home and many children have made great progress using these games.

### **Other subjects:**

**Science:** Our science topic over the term is properties of materials, therefore linking in with our work on water. We will begin with the properties and behaviour of solids, liquids and gases, moving onto looking at the processes of evaporation and separation and how they link to the water-cycle. This will give the children the opportunity to create their own investigation linked to evaporation and separation.

**Geography:** The children will learn about the key features of a river, labelling diagrams and building their own 'shoebox' river system. They will be involved in map-work, using Digimaps to look at both local and national rivers, using grid references to locate features on maps with accuracy. They will also explore the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water in different parts of the world. They will also learn the different parts of the Water Cycle, UK rivers and worldwide rivers. They will use a range of fieldwork techniques and methods during their visit to Blashford Lakes at Ringwood.

**Art:** By looking at water-based pictures by a range of artists, the children will consider the techniques used to create mood and atmosphere. Using a range of media, the children will create their own water-based art.

**PSHE:** Our work in PSHE will focus on relationships, using a range of high-quality texts to discuss safe relationships within families and friendship groups. We will consider how we can, often unintentionally, discriminate groups of people and how that must make them feel.

**RE:** Linking with our water topic, we will look at how water is used symbolically within religions, with a focus on Christian baptism.

**ICT:** The children will be involved in some programming challenges this half term, as well as extending their keyboard skills, using a range of features to present their work with increasing confidence and quality.

**French:** The children will revise how to introduce and describe themselves, both orally and in written form. They will then move on to describing their local area and the weather-associated vocabulary. By the end of it, they should be able to present you with a fluent weather forecast!

**PE:** the children will take part in two lessons each week, on a Tuesday and a Thursday. On Tuesdays, they will take part in activities intended to polish their skills when attacking and defending in a range of sports. On Thursdays, they will work with Mr Ramsay on honing their netball and handball skills.

**Music:** The children will be looking at how many beats are in pieces of music. They will listen to and be able to identify pieces with durations of both two and four meters.

**Spellings:**

Spellings will be taught throughout the week at school, often as the first activity of the day. They will come home with a new set of spellings each Friday, written neatly in their spelling journals. Spellings will also be on the school website. Learning their spellings, and providing evidence of doing so, is part of their weekly homework. Spellings will usually follow a word but will sometimes be a list of topic-related vocabulary. Some children will receive spellings planned specifically for their needs so do not panic if they are different to the ones on the website.

**Homework:** The children will have three pieces of homework every week:

1. Learning spellings: New spellings will be given on a Friday and tested the following Friday. They will need to show evidence of learning their spellings each week by presenting their spelling journal to their teacher each Friday. These journals use the Look, Cover, Write, Check approach.
2. Times Tables: Tables will also be tested on a Friday. Children will need to bring in a completed grid of Times Tables (based on the one they are learning) or show that they have been on Times Tables Rock Stars (we can check the latter!).
3. Reading: The children will need to bring in their Reading Record to be checked every Friday by the class teacher. There must be evidence of a minimum of three dated entries, all signed by an adult each week. It is really important that you continue to hear your child read. Whilst they may be able to read fluently, it is key to check their understanding of what they have read. The link between keen readers and great writers is well established and we hope you will support your child as they read, for pleasure, at home each week.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to email your child's class teacher using the email address below:

[5JF@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5JF@orchardjunior.com)

[5TT@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5TT@orchardjunior.com)

[5TB@orchardjunior.com](mailto:5TB@orchardjunior.com)

We are so hoping that this year runs without any significant COVID restrictions! We recognise that your child will not have done a 'normal' year since leaving year 2! Here's to a fun, exciting and wonderful Year 5! We look forward to getting to know our children and their families over the coming months.

The Year 5 Team