



# Curriculum Newsletter

Mrs Gormley Primary 5 Term 1 2021-2022



## The World Around Us

(Science, Geography and History)



Our theme this term is **The Ancient Egyptians**. The children will be using ICT along with non-fiction books to research facts about Egypt, including the location of Egypt, Egyptian culture, the hierarchy of the Egyptians and Egyptian gods. Children will learn how the Egyptian way of life and work has shaped civilisations today.

The children will also explore, through STEM activities, how the Egyptians built the Pyramids and get a better understanding of the mummification process. There will be plenty of Arts and Crafts opportunities from making canopic jars and papyrus paper, to producing jewellery and riches fit for any Pharaoh.

In the past, we have concluded our topic with a visit the Ulster Museum in Belfast. The excellent Ancient Egyptian exhibition here helps to add real meaning to what the children have been learning about in school. It is hoped that we will still be able to complete this trip to the museum whilst taking in the Covid rules and regulations. We will keep you informed.

### **This term in:**

#### **Maths:** 'Times tables are so important.'

This can't be emphasised enough so please make sure your child is giving their Quick Mental Recall homework the correct attention. Multiplication tables, rounding to the nearest 10/100/1000, finding halves and quarters of 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers as well as reading the time on an analogue clock (in 5 minute intervals) will all be covered this term. Please provide some practise mental maths questions for your child in their Learning at Home book.

<http://www.coolmathgames.com> [www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/mathsgames) (HIT THE BUTTON) is a useful site for mental maths. Mathletics is being used to support areas of maths taught in class. Can I ask that your child tries to log on to Mathletics at least once a week from home and completes the relevant tasks which are generally assigned in relation to work currently being covered in class or as part of some revision work. These will be updated regularly.

**Literacy:** AR (Accelerated Reading) has begun again for the children in Primary 5 and they are super excited about it. Be sure to ask your child how their AR quizzes are going. The children will move up AR levels when they get 4 100% scores in a quiz. We will be focusing on Report (All About Me, Jobs in Ancient Egypt), Narrative (Fairytale/Halloween story) and Instructional writing (Halloween spells) this term. Our class novel for this term is 'The Worst Witch' by Jill Murphy. Work on this novel will be completed in class.

**ICT:** Our focus for Term 1 will be on Computational Thinking and Coding (Scratch) and Microsoft Powerpoint/Google Slides. We plan to enhance the children's coding skills as they digitally draw a sprite that they will then program to move around the screen to draw different shapes. To develop the children's presenting skills we will be introducing them to the Microsoft Powerpoint and the Google Slides tools. The children will learn how to add slides, choose different slide designs & transitions and explore the Animation feature. These skills will be useful to the children when they are reporting to the class about the Seven Wonders of the World.



### **What else is happening this term?**

**Wellbeing Wednesday:** The child's mental health and wellbeing continues to be an important feature of school life. Each week the children will be introduced to a new Mental Health Hero who will teach them a different **Wellbeing SUPERPOWER** that they can use to defeat the **NEGATRON** (negative feelings).

**PE:** Our P.E. days will be **MONDAY (swimming)** and **FRIDAY (GAA skills)**. Please ensure your child brings their trainers to school on Fridays.

#### **Homework:**

- ❖ **Reading nightly** and will be one of the following: AR book or Guided/Class reader.
  - ❖ **Mental Maths nightly:** An area of 'Quick Mental Recall' to focus on and this will be in their mental maths folders.
  - ❖ **Spellings & Activity booklet nightly.**
  - ❖ **Literacy:** Monday and Tuesday nights
  - ❖ **Numeracy:** Wednesday and Thursday nights
- Your child has a **Learning at Home book** which should be used to revise spellings and practise areas of mental maths. **Please make sure you check over and sign your child's written homeworks each night.**



**Blended Learning:** Primary 5 have been enrolled in Mrs Gormley's Google Classroom. Weekly tasks based in one curricular area are set for the children to complete in their own time at home. This is a great way to further your child's learning and to help develop their ICT skills. If your child is having trouble accessing Google Classroom from home, please inform the school via email.

## Primary 5's Classroom Code:

1. We must wash our hands at the set times.
2. Push our chairs in when we leave them.
3. Keep our desks tidy on top and below.
4. Be kind to everyone.
5. Always walk in the classroom.
6. Produce work that we are proud of.
7. Heads down when we return to the classroom.
8. Put our hands up to speak to the teacher.



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## Primary 5's Playground Rules:

1. Invite people to play in your game if they are on their own.
2. Always use gentle hands and kind words.
3. If someone gets hurt, tell one of the supervisors on duty.
4. Try to avoid littering in the playground.
5. Play in your coned area.
6. Finish your food before running around.
7. When playtime is over, walk to the line carefully and stand quietly.
8. Pick up your belongings before going back to the classroom.



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