



Dear Parents,

Last half term was a great success with the children settling down quickly into Year 5 - it was pleasing to share this with you at the recent parents' evening. Red Ridge was also an incredible success, with the children sometimes working outside of their comfort zone and having a fun time along the way! We hope you enjoyed the class assembly where the children worked hard and persevered, despite some technical problems with the Ipad's, to present what they did during their 3 day residential. So far, the children have shown plenty of effort, enthusiasm and positivity towards school and their learning - I'm sure this will continue as the year progresses.

In literacy this half term, as well as writing Ancient Greek quest myths, including describing their own mythical beasts and settings, they will be writing their own short stories based on Aesop's fables from Ancient Greece.

In maths, they will be developing their written methods of mental addition and subtraction. They will be using their understanding of angles to solve problems and practise their measuring and drawing of angles using a protractor. Towards the end of the half term, there will be a focus on decimal numbers, including rounding, ordering and comparing with equivalent fractions.

As part of their work on Ancient Greece, they will discover more about the differences between the city states of Athens and Sparta - they will need to decide if they would have preferred to be an Athenian or Spartan! The class will also explore the Ancient Olympics and the legacy left from Ancient Greece, including finding out more about the 'great thinkers' of this time period. In art, they will be learning about the theatre during this time and producing their own theatre masks.

In science, we will continue to learn more about forces, including investigating up thrust and buoyancy in water, finding out more

*about air and water resistance as types of friction and testing different lengths of levers.*

*Homework and spellings will continue to be given out on a weekly basis. If your child is having difficulty with the homework I have set for them, let me know as I, or Mrs Carter at homework club, can support where necessary. If any homework takes longer than half an hour, I suggest they stop at that point and just write a note at the bottom of the sheet to let me know.*

*Reading is also part of the children's homework and the 'Accelerated Reader' scheme has been a great success in monitoring how much the children are reading. It has been an excellent motivational tool for many children; they can see how they are progressing towards their target (from the Accelerated Reader race track in the classroom) and there is an added incentive of winning book tokens in a prize draw at Christmas.*

*I look forward to an enjoyable and productive half-term. Thank you for your continued support.*

*Mr Viner*