



# Spring Term 1

## Y5/6 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have a return date! This week, the government announced that all children will be returning to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. As a staff, I cannot tell you how excited we are to have the children back with us. I would like to take a moment to thank you for the support you have provided over this time away from school and to add how proud we are of the children's efforts and the resilience they have shown.

Please find an outline of this half term's learning below:

### Geography:

#### Mountains, Volcanoes & Earthquakes

In Geography this half term, children will start by learning about the physical geography of Mount Everest and learn about the first successful ascent. Following this, we will discover significant mountain ranges and learn about the highest peaks in the UK. Children will learn about how mountains and volcanoes are formed, the role of plate tectonics, why eruptions occur and debate why some people choose to live near volcanoes. Finally, our focus will turn to earthquakes; where they are located, why they happen, how they happen and their aftermath on the landscape and the people most affected.

### Science: Observing Life Cycles

In this unit, children will be observing and comparing the life cycles of plants and animals in their local environment with other plants and animals around the world (in the rainforest, in the oceans, in desert areas). We will be conducting studies to discover how animals reproduce and grow. Children will also have the opportunity to dissect a flower and explore the fascinating world of flowering plant reproduction.

### PE: Attack & Defend Games

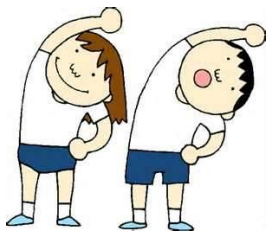
Children will be taking part in attack and defend games. We will learn tactical awareness strategies as well as the importance of exploiting space on a pitch.

Our PE days are as follows:

Doves – Tuesday and Thursday  
Eagles – Monday & Wednesday  
Kingfishers – Wednesday & Thursday

*On the days when your child has PE, they should attend school in their PE kit for the entire day, accordance with Covid-19 risk assessment.*

*Please ensure child wears black shorts, white t- and their school*



*kit in our your shirt*

*jumper or cardigan over the top. In cold weather, children are permitted to wear jogging pants. Children can come to school in their school shoes and change into their PE pumps on arrival to school if they wish or they may wear white or black trainers for the full day.*

### RE:

In Religious Education this term we will be learning about Buddhism.



Throughout this unit, we will be explore who Siddhartha Gautama (the enlightened one) is his significance to the religion. We will also learn about the core teachings of Buddhism, before exploring how these ideas and teachings may make a difference in the world today, through learning about life in a monastic community.

### PSHE:

We will complete our learning on LGBT+ by making a rainbow flag or timeline of events. Our new topic will give the children an understanding of money, savings and interest rates. On the week of 1 March, we will participate in Justice Week's Rule of Law lesson.



### Music:

The children will learn to play the glockenspiel and will be introduced to the notes E, D and C. They will learn about note lengths and learn to read and play a variety of musical pieces.

### Computing:

#### Computer Science

Children will be continuing their learning about coding and programming. They will learn about how it is the source of the technological world around us. Children will learn about different coding languages and begin to create their own code on operating systems such Purple Mash and Scratch. They will develop their own script on Scratch 3 to create a fully responsive, interactive



### French:

The children will learn the language of keeping fit and healthy. They will sing songs, listen to French speakers and participate in spoken and written French activities.

### DT:

This half-term the focus of our learning is cooking and nutrition.

We will be exploring and celebrating culture and seasonality, looking at the different foods within a range of cultures. Following on from this, we will explore; the needs of a healthy varied diet and the food miles of ingredients before designing our own savoury dish.



quiz.

Please ensure your child is always fully prepared for the school day with their school bag, PE kit, reading record & reading book, homework and anything else they may have been asked to bring in.



**Home learning:**

- Read at home for 15-20 minutes every day – upload record on Seesaw (weekly).
- Practice spellings using Spelling Shed (test on a Friday)
- Learn times tables using Maths Shed (test on a Friday)
- Complete at least one activity on the Homework Topic Web.
- Complete weekly maths & reading homework – set on Seesaw.



**Home reading: To go for 'Green' in our school reading challenge each week, children must now read 5 times per week**

We now use Reading Solutions Plus as our reading resource at home. Your child has their own login in details and can access it whenever they wish. They can then record their reading in their reading diary as 'Reading Solutions'. If your child gets put on hold, please let the class teacher know.

Your child can also read books from 'Oxford Owls' or 100 book challenge books as part of their home reading.

Please ensure that your child reads and their home reading diary is signed by an adult before it is uploaded on Seesaw for Friday.

Keep a look out for our 'Reader of the Week' on the blog every Friday alongside our class 'Star of the Week'

**Reading Challenge**

5 times = Green                      4/3/2 times = Yellow                      0/1 time = Red

If your child achieves green for the week, they will be entered into a special prize draw!

Your child will also be able to bring home a book from the 100 book challenge list and they can also read from this and record this in their reading record too. The list of books which are part of the 100 book challenge can be found at the back of your child's reading record. Please feel free to read any of these books at any point of the year with your child and to add these to your child's reading record. It may be that you have some of these books at home or you may wish to borrow them from the library.

**New Class Twitter Page!**

Please check our new class twitter pages: @GatesEagles, @GatesKingfisher, @GatesDoves. We will be posting lots of photographs of what we have been up to at school and any special events. Please follow your child's class and feel free to like posts.

As well as Twitter, please keep up to date with Seesaw as this is often used to send notifications/reminders and will also have photos of your child's learning.



The Gates Primary - Eagles Class Page  
@GatesEagles



The Gates Primary - Kingfishers Class Page  
@GatesKingfisher Follows you



The Gates Primary - Doves Class Page  
@GatesDoves Follows you



The Gates

