

## Year 5 and 6 Spring Term Newsletter



Happy New Year! The children have returned after the Christmas holidays and continued with the same enthusiasm and passion for learning displayed towards the end of last year.

2016 will be an important year for all the children: some will be leaving and continuing their school journey at a different school; others will be taking their 11+ examinations; some will be entering their final year at primary school and everyone will continue setting the example as role models at Buckminster.

Spring Term will see us travel around the world in our new exciting topic; as we compare disparate peoples and places in the UK, Europe, North America and South America. Looking at our own area and discovering the similarities and differences between where we live and these other intriguing locations. We will be developing a range of skills and increasing our expertise in a number of curriculum areas, including key human and physical geography goals. This will climax with a Mexican Fiesta in the final week of the Spring Term – plenty of time to resource a costume! Science lessons this term will see the children develop their knowledge and understanding in biology: studying the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds; including some unusual examples like egg-laying mammals and marsupials; comparing complete and incomplete metamorphosis; finding out about well-known naturalists and animal behaviourists. The second half of the term, the children will look at the history of classification of living things from Aristotle to the present day; study the binomial system introduced by Linnaeus and the 7 levels of classification used today; Understand why classification is important and use and create classification keys themselves. The PSHE topic focuses on 'Going for Goals' and it's 'Good to be ME', building upon their self-confidence and appreciation of others around them.

Year 5 will start swimming lessons later this term, more details to follow before half-term. Year 6 have already begun their preparation for their examinations in May. Mr Brown has started teaching the Year 5's how to tackle the 11+ papers, a great learning experience for all children even if the 11+ examination is not being undertaken.

I have been impressed with the way the children have undertaken their homework tasks and work is regularly produced to a high level and handed in on time. Homework will continue to be handed out towards the end of the week and to be handed in the following Thursday (I always give a days grace too!). Spellings will continue to be Tuesday mornings and a times tables or division test will be weekly (they are to continue to develop their rapid recall at home).

If you have any concerns or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me through the home-school diary (which should be in school every day and signed weekly), by telephone or in person at the end of the day.

Mr Phil Pettener

