

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the children back after the Christmas break. The children have had an excellent first term in Year 5 and have shown that they are always prepared and ready to learn. Our concert and other activities throughout the half term have been a great success and we thank you for attending and supporting your children. We would also like to thank you for your continuous support with home learning, reading and spelling and times table practise as this helps with progression in school. We are all looking forward to another successful half term in which the children continue to mature socially and intellectually and we have some fantastic opportunities planned.

Our cross-curricular topic will teach children about many aspects of the fascinating Aztec and Inca civilisations. In this topic we will be building on the children's previous Aztec knowledge from Year 3 while introducing the Incas. We will be learning about buildings, artwork, inventions, the Amazon rainforest and the famous Chichen Itza. We will be making comparisons between life in modern day South America and that of the time when the Aztecs and Incas ruled. This will be done using a range of media which will provide the children with a deeper understanding of life in this very different time period and country.

As always in Literacy, we will be continuing to focus on the key elements of good writing such as punctuation, handwriting, grammar and spelling. We will be showing children how to assess and improve their own work according to learning objectives and success criteria. Guided reading sessions will be tailored to the needs of specific groups and individuals and will continue to cover all assessment focuses. This term the children will be covering specific aspects of writing newspapers, poetry and studying older literature.

In Numeracy children will continue to develop a range of skills in all areas of mathematics. Linked to the topic, we will be analysing Aztec and Inca record keeping and working with shape and space. This work will deepen children's understanding of the number system during this period and how it relates to that of today. Mental maths and times tables tests will continue to take place each Friday and remain a fundamental part of learning. In order to keep you abreast of areas for your child to work on we will be sending home each weeks mental test along with the questions and answers. Please encourage your child to practise at home.

All members of the Year 5 team are willing to help with any queries or concerns you have throughout the half term so please feel free to put a note in your child's planner or call in to see us.

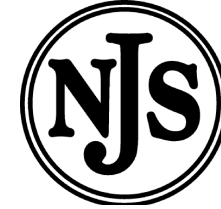
Kind regards,

Year 5 Team

Mr Henfield Mr Wilkinson Mr Hayward Mrs Gracey Mrs Hodgson

Key Dates: Tue 14/1 - Y5/6 Childline Assembly
Tue 21 - Young Voices @ Sheffield
Mon 27/1 - Y5/6 Childline workshop
Thur 30/1 - Y5/6 Childline Workshop
Fri 31/1 - Training Day (School closed)

NJS Home Learning Log



Year Five

'Aztecs and Incas'

Autumn 2

Tasks	Choice of Home Learning tasks.	Work completed?	Parent comment.	Teacher comment.
1	The Aztecs and Incas ate many different foods some which we wouldn't eat today. Can you create a research project all about Aztec food. You could use books and a computer to help you.			
2	The Aztecs and Incas were frequent bathers. Can you design your own bathroom for the emperor?			
3	The Aztecs and Incas worshipped many different gods. Can you design your own god and explain what it would be like and why? Think about the clothes your god would wear and powers.			
4	Machu Picchu was a city built on top of a mountain in the clouds. Can you design a new mode of transport to get from the city back to sea level?			
5	Can you design your own Aztec wallpaper?			
6	South America contains the Amazon rainforest. Research one animal that you ONLY find in the Amazon rainforest. Why and how is it adapted to live there?			

Topic: Victorian Times

Note to parents

Dear Parents,

At the start of each half term the children will be given a home learning log like this one which they must keep for the duration of that half term. The home learning activities will be linked to the topic that the children are focussing on at that time and the activities will be carefully chosen to develop different skills in relation to a variety of curriculum subjects. The children will be able to choose the order in which they want to complete the activities. It is hoped that this will encourage the children to organise their time and to plan in advance so they can gather relevant materials to complete the art / design based tasks. There will be more home learning activities than there are number of weeks in that half term. It is hoped that this will allow the children to make independent choices about which tasks they would like to undertake. If the children bring in a piece of work **by Monday** of each week they will receive a merit to go on the class chart. Children can obtain merits for a number of reasons and they add up at the end of the school year and can be cashed in for prizes.

All home learning will be displayed in year group areas to allow the children to feel proud of the quality work that they have produced. We hope that this will create interest and give the children the opportunity to learn from others, as well as further reinforce just how much the children and staff value home learning in Norton Junior School. As you can see there is space for teacher and parent feedback for each home learning task to allow continued dialogue between home and school, please feel free to comment on the task or the work that your child has produced.

We hope that parents and children find each of their half term tasks exciting and stimulating. As a school we fully encourage parental involvement with children's learning so please continue to support, value and encourage them to continue their learning at home. We would like to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another enjoyable half term.