



**Y5A**

Mrs Ashford

Escher Class

Autumn Term 2 - Information Guide

2nd Half Term 2016

**Our learning this term**

Our topic is ‘Alchemy Island’

**English** – Our focus this half term will be on fantasy narrative, short stories and non-chronological reports. This will involve a cross-curricular exploration relating to the creation of atmosphere in both the arts and humanities.

**Maths** – We will continue the year by focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division - from extending mental strategies to reinforcing formal written methods.

**Science –** Exploring the topic (Alchemy Island), we will be investigating properties and changes in materials as we continue our target of working scientifically.

**Other subjects** – In Geography we will be map reading using coordinates and a map key, as we begin to investigate the far reaches of Alchemy Island and its multitude of portals. This theme will likewise be reflected in Computing, Music and Art, culminating in an exciting ‘express’ performance (details to follow.)

**Computing** –

**SPELLING:** Children have now been assessed and placed into appropriate spelling sets. A spelling list focusing on a particular spelling pattern will be sent home each Monday. Words containing the identified spelling pattern will then be tested the following Monday rather than the specific words in the list. The school has a spelling improvement ‘drive’ at present and we ask that you support your child at home also, to promote the importance of accurate spelling.

**MENTAL MATHS FOCUS:** In class we are focussing on improving our mental recall of our times table facts. We are trialling a new online scheme called Times Table Rockstars which all children have an individual logon for. We ask that you encourage your child to practice at home to build confidence, resilience and speed.

**READING (New reading records have been issued)**

**Autumn 2 –** It is important that your child’s reading book and reading record comes into school **every day**. They will work with an adult to improve their reading skills at least once a week through guided reading sessions and in other lessons. Our focus text this half term will be the excellent illustrated book of short stories titled ***Tales of Outer Suburbia*** by Shaun Tan.

**HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD**

Please support your child with their homework and encourage them to aim high and produce neat work of a good standard. Please also read with / listen to your child reading regularly (at least 1 hour a week) and comment and sign in the reading diary. Remember to question them about what they have read and make it a pleasurable experience.

**HOMEWORK:** A new homework sheet has been attached to the inside front cover of homework books with varying levels of challenge. Homework books will be sent home on a Friday and should be brought into school on a weekly basis when completed.

**VISITS AND ENRICHMENT**

The children’s DARE programme this half term includes a trip to the SBA Police Station, wherein they will explore different aspects of police work and how these relate to the topics they have been discussing in class. In terms of PE enrichment, there will be an intra-school cross country competition at Akrotiri and a pan-BFC schools cross country at Happy Valley as well as swimming / stroke improvement lessons each week at the pool.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**PE:** Every Thursday (**Not** Monday this half term due to swimming Tuesday)

**Swimming:** Every Tuesday morning until Christmas.