Firstly, an enormous, humbled and heartfelt Thank You for the many Christmas cards and generous gifts that I, and the other members of the Doves teaching team, received at the end of last term. Your kindness is quite overwhelming.

It is hard to believe that one whole term has gone already. We are so thrilled to report that the children have been fantastic. They have worked hard in class and at home. They have been a delight to teach and we have loved watching them grow as learners.

Thank you, also, to everyone for supporting all of the events and activities of the last term. We would particularly like to say thank you for your support of our Christmas Concert. I am sure you will agree your children did brilliantly! The enthusiasm and commitment shown in performing and learning the songs has only heightened our excitement about the performance of “Thames Tales” at the Royal Albert Hall, later in the term. Further details are added below.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Parent’s Evenings, later in the term (see dates for the term) but if, in the meantime, you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any other member of the Year 5 team.

Mr. Woolton

For your information, the topics that we will be studying this term are as follows:

**English:** Film narratives; Poetry: Choral and performance; Novels and stories by significant children’s authors; Information Texts

**Mathematics:** Multiplication and Division; Fractions; decimals and percentages

**Science:** Earth and Space; Forces

**Computing:** Programming; Data Spreadsheets; Animation (linked to English)

**Geography:** Rivers, including geographical features

**Art/DT:** Linked to topic on Rivers (David Hockney)

**Music:** Holst Planet Suite; 2Compose (Space) – composition; Thames Tales

**PSHE:** Managing Risks; Economic Awareness

**RE:** Islam – Worship, Festivals and Practice; Judaism in the home

**French:** Stories - Making sentences; Monet

**PE:** Wednesday: Basketball; Tag Rugby (outdoor kit essential) Thursday: Dance; Rounders

**Additional Adults**
- Mrs. Greer (Tue am) / Wed (all day))
- Mrs. Sharkey (French – Tuesday (am))
- Mrs. Miller, Ms. Lambert
Homework:

Overall, the children have been fantastic about completing homework tasks. Thank you for encouraging them in this endeavor. As a reminder:

**Reading:** Please encourage your child to read on a daily basis.

**Spelling:** These are given out on a weekly basis (Monday) and tested in school. The words chosen come from taught spelling patterns and the Year 5 Spelling word list. The children should practice these using any of the methods they choose, from the back of their spelling folders.

**Maths homework:** This is given out on a Monday, to be returned on Thursday.

**English homework:** This is given out on Thursday, to be returned the following Monday.

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Spring Term Project: The Spring Term project will be based upon aspects of Earth and Space. We will discuss possible lines of enquiry and interests that the children may have, in class, and then set a date for the projects to be completed by.

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**Further Information:**

**Children as Learners**

As a school, and as a class, we positively encourage a growth mindset. That is, we celebrate effort, learning from mistakes, getting stuck and knowing/using strategies for getting “un-stuck”. Each week, the children keep a learning diary to record this learning. Can I encourage you to ask them about their learning? When discussing your child’s day at school perhaps you could ask, “What did you learn today?” rather than, “What did you do today?”

**Multiplication Facts**

It would be great if this term you could help us further by supporting your child in learning his/her multiplication tables and related division facts. This knowledge is key in helping them to understand fractions work, which we will be undertaking later in the term.

**Uniform:**

In Year 5, the expectation is that children wear a white shirt (not polo-shirt), and be able to do up and wear a standard tie (not wear elacticated ones), unless dresses are chosen to be worn. Children should wear black, flat shoes, not trainers or boots. In PE, children must wear a house-coloured t-shirt and blue shorts/skirts. Children must not wear any jewellery (apart from watches) and if earrings are worn, they must be studs only.

**Thames Tales:**

As you will see from the list of diary dates, preparations for this ‘once in a life-time experience’ are coming at us more regularly this term. In order to help the children learn the songs, a website has been set up by Merton Music Foundation. This can be accessed via the MMF website (https://mmf.org.uk/royal-albert-hall-resources-for-school/). The password is fatherthames.

Tickets will go on sale from the RAH box office in early January. We will send further details once we have them.

And finally, here is some advance notice of dates for later in the Summer term: 22nd May – Year 5 Assembly; 5th June – Year 5 trip to the Science Museum; 1st July – Year 5 Trip to the Magic Circle.