

Welcome back to the Spring term....

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that you are well rested and ready for the next twelve weeks of the Spring term in Year 5. We have another jam-packed term ahead of us: from Vikings to space exploration, Thor to Chris Hadfield and full stops to parenthesis! This term Mrs Higginson will continue to teach Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays with Mrs Evans finishing the week off on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Baldwin and Miss Evans will continue to take you swimming on a Wednesday afternoon for the next half term and to deliver your music/French/P4C on a Friday afternoon. Miss Webb will be completing her 2nd term with us on her PGCE placement taking more responsibility for class teaching as the term progresses. We are also very lucky to receive continued support from Mrs Weekes and Miss Jones throughout the week and have our PE delivered by our specialist coach Danielle.

So what's in store...

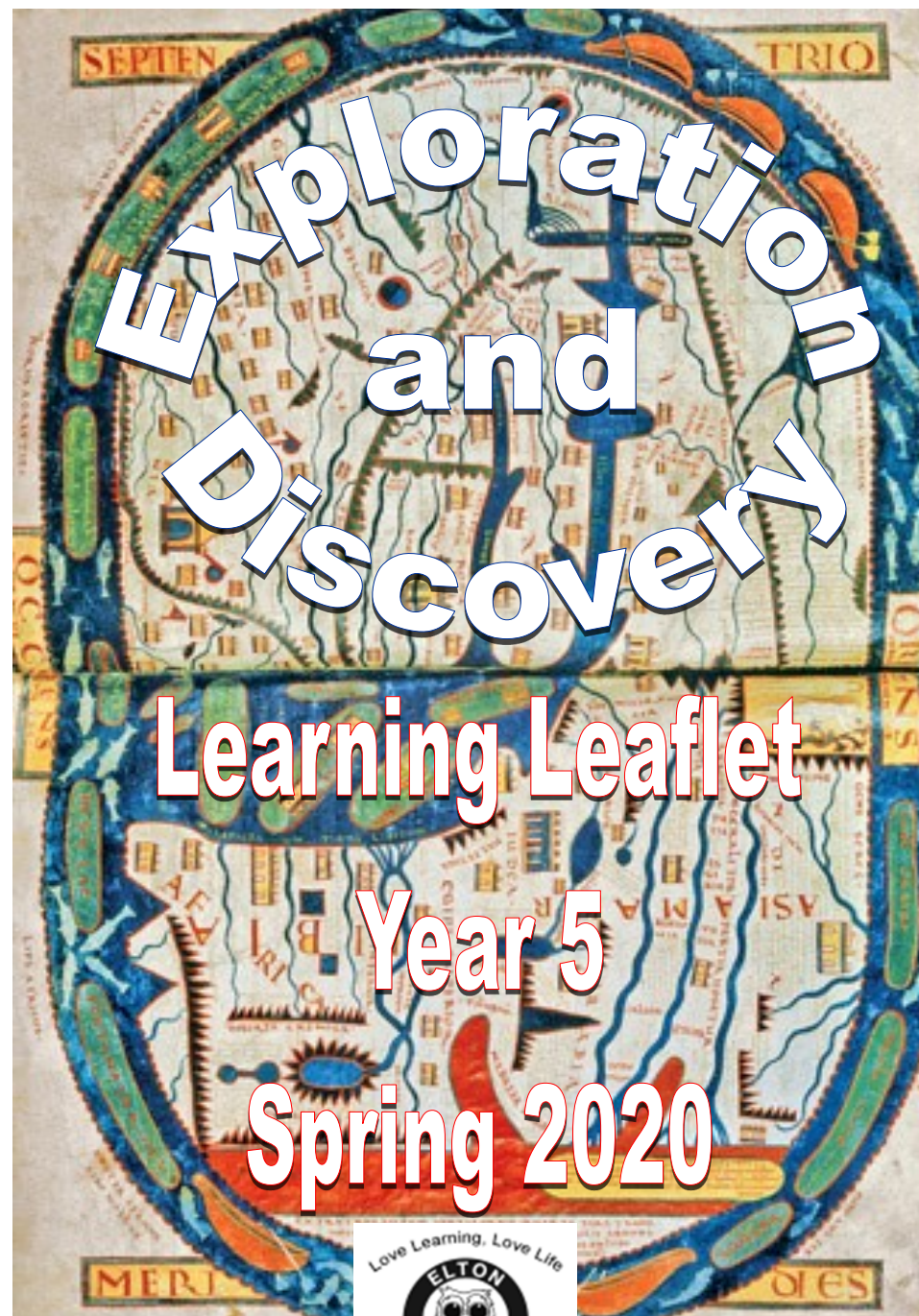
Inside this leaflet you will glean an outline of some of the exciting learning that will take place during our new topic EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY—if you have any photographs, posters, books, models, artefacts etc that may help the children with their learning, please send them in clearly labelled with your child's name or if you have an expertise in any of the areas mentioned inside and would like to come and chat to the children or offer some help/activities, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Higginson.

PE will be on a **Monday** this term (outdoors weather permitting/where ever possible)—so please make sure that you have the **correct** school PE kit in school. Trainers for outdoor lessons/breaktimes if needed and school shoes for in the classroom please. Swimming will continue on a Wednesday afternoon this term.

Learning Log homework and Maths will continue to be given out on a **Friday**; should be returned on a **Wednesday**. Spellings for the term will be glued into the learning log books, so please ensure the children practice these at home. As always, reading is the cornerstone of all learning. We recommend reading a wide range of texts both at home and at school, this includes your child's school reading book and their own personal reading books. Please continue to listen to your child read and sign their reading records as regularly as you can. By year 5 we expect the children to also record any home reading they do themselves in their reading record.

AOB: Any jumpers/shoes/kits left in the classroom at the end of a day are placed in the boxes above our coat pegs in class. Please ensure these are named so we can return them. Also water bottles need to be taken home regularly and washed.

We look forward to seeing you all soon, any questions please ask.



Topic Overview:

This term our exciting context for learning is 'Exploration and Discovery'. In the first half term we will be using the gripping story of Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton to kick start our adventures into Norse mythology before exploring the origins and lives of Marvel's own very own Avengers. Through this we will continue our studies of the Anglo-Saxons and rapidly progress into the Viking Invasion of the UK.



After half term, we will take our exploration into the greater unknown through studying the stories 'The Darkest Dark' by Cottrell Boyce and 'The boy who climbed to the moon' by David Almond as our launch pads into our investigation of the Earth in Space.

English:



During the first half term we will be focused upon reading and writing myths. We will create our own heroes, monsters and villains and vary the view points from which we retell and create our myths. Our writing this term is really going to focus on cohesion—organising, sequencing and extending our paragraphs using conjunctions, commas, adverbials and clear presentational choices.

After half term we move onto recounts and biographical writing. Within this unit we will be writing a factual biography about Chris Hadfield. We will learn to use bracket, dashes and commas to indicate parenthesis and continue to develop our use of conjunction to extend sentences.

We will continue to develop our comprehension and inferential skills in guided reading and as a whole class share a range of myths and legends. Throughout spellings, punctuation and handwriting remain a priority in all our work.

Maths:

We will start the term off finishing our measures unit, working on finding and calculating the area of both rectilinear and compound shapes. We will then move to multiplication and division, specifically developing our formal written methods.

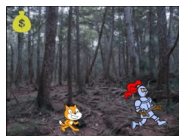
The rest of the term will focus on fractions and decimals, which covers a huge amount of new learning. We will begin with our fractions unit, looking at finding and naming equivalent fractions; comparing and ordering fractions; recognising mixed numbers and improper fractions; and adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. We will then be introduced to percentages, where we will look at finding percentages of amounts and finding the equivalent decimal and fraction. Within our decimal work, we will recognise and use thousandths, relating them to tenths, hundredths and will read, write, order and compare numbers with up to three decimal places.

Science:

Within science, we will look at forces, with a specific focus on the force of gravity. We will also identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces. After half term, we move to look at Earth and space. Within this unit, we will describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system and describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth. We will understand that the Sun, Earth and Moon are approximately spherical bodies and we will use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

ICT:

We will begin this term by undertaking a unit on digital media, which will enable us to plan, design and create a multi-scene animation related to our history unit. Following on from that, we will then look at how the internet works and begin to work on creating our own web pages.



Geography and History:

We will start the term by finishing our studies of the Anglo Saxon conquest of England and follow this by asking ourselves questions such as: How did the Anglo Saxons become Christian? Who was Alfred the Great and was he in fact great? What did the Anglo Saxon's believe? This will lead us onto examining how and when the Vikings raided the UK and how this changed our way of life from place names to transport. We will link our historical studies to geographical knowledge of the early Norse settlements throughout Frodsham, Chester and the Wirral peninsula.



Design Technology and Art

Our focus in DT is 'Super heroes—Super foods' and in particular how we can design and make healthy energy foods that will sustain Thor and his friends on their epic quests to save the universe!

Later in the term we will use our programming skills, engineering workshops and science knowledge to help us to design and make an electronically controlled moving space vehicle.

Art throughout the term will be delivered discretely through our RE work and studies of Norse mythology. We will investigate briefly the work of Van Gogh's Starry Night during our study of the earth in space.

PE:

PE lessons will continue to be taught on a **Monday** afternoon by our sports coach Danielle specifically looking at invasion games and team striking and fielding games- so don't forget those PE kits. This will also be your final term for swimming on a Wednesday afternoon where you will continue to develop your strokes and water safety skills. As always, there will be opportunities throughout the term to participate in sporting clubs and competitions.

MFL: This term, Mrs Baldwin will be taking you to the Super market to develop your French vocabulary and also to the pantomime to develop your French storytelling and role play.. I look forward to hearing you ask for food in the Spar en Francais! Following this your focus will be the 'Carnival and clowns' with a bit of French piracy thrown in— 'Cri de pirate mon copieux!

P4C:

In P4C, Mrs Baldwin will explore 'harmony' through different families, religious tolerance, democracy, WW1, cultures and freedom of expression. This is also an opportunity for the children to discuss current issues affecting Harmony such as recent events in Iran.

Music:

This term is timely for Valentine's day with 'Make you feel my love' as our first unit followed by a real favourite from the 90s era when Will Smith will take you back to rap and the Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Promises to be a very exciting unit!



RE:

In the first half term we will be introducing you to Sikhism. What do Sikhs believe? Who are the Gurus? What are the 5 K's? What is a Gurdwara? We will also examine similarities and differences in a faith or secular led life. Moving on from this we will examine Christianity and in particular focus on concepts of Christianity we may find hard to understand.

