

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the new school term and year. It's lovely to see the children back, and wonderful to have a settled but engaged atmosphere of learning in the class. We have reflected on the life of our late Queen and support is available to all at this difficult time of mourning and change.

I have talked to the class about homework, so they should be aware of our Y5/6 expectations. Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times each week, and also sign the reading record book to show this has happened. The importance of reading cannot be understated!

We are revisiting the Y5/6 spellings, so please could the children practise at home those that we have practised in class that week. They know to use the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' strategy, and they could also write a sentence using each word.

Please could pupils carry on practising times tables until they are fluent with all up to 12 x 12 (although I think the Y5 pupils already are, after their assessment in the Summer). Topmarks has lots of games that support tables practise: [Times Tables Games for 7 to 11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Times-Tables-Games-for-7-to-11-year-olds) For those pupils who are entirely confident with times tables, work on mental maths skills would be very useful: [Mental Maths Tests and Games \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Mental-Maths-Tests-and-Games).

In addition to reading, spellings and tables/mental maths work at home, pupils should choose at least **three** activities from the grid below (linked to our learning this half-term) to complete by Thursday, 20th October. Children need to bring in evidence of completion of the task, or the work itself.

The Kingdom of Benin was sited in modern day Nigeria. Can you name 5 other ancient civilisations and the modern day countries where they would have been found?	We are reading "Kensuke's Kingdom" by Michael Morpurgo. Create a story map or mind map of the story so far.	The Kingdom of Benin was known for its creation of artefacts. Can you draw a picture or create a collage of your family in the style of the brass plaques people of Benin created.	The Queen and now King Charles are head of the Commonwealth. Can you name the countries of the Commonwealth that are in Africa. Did any of them have different names before the names they have now? Find out how some names have changed, and why.
In "Kensuke's Kingdom", Michael and his family set off on a boat. Imagine being alone (or with your family) on a boat at sea. What would you see, hear, feel? Use all the sense to write an imaginary account, or a descriptive poem.	In the 1800s, Britain wanted to take control of the palm oil and rubber that the Kingdom of Benin produced. What can we use palm oil and rubber for today? What are the problems with rubber and palm oil production?	Roll two dice (or roll one twice). Note the number you make, and use that number to create a 10 millions (Y6) or a million (Y5) number. E.g. if you roll 8, you could create 1, 004, 201, because the digits add to 8. Now create the highest and lowest numbers you can where the digits still add to the number you rolled. Repeat this 3 times.	Design and draw a stamp that could be produced and sold to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II.
Who was Dr David Livingstone and why was he famous?	Devise a crossword containing clues and words linked to the Kingdom of Benin.	Carry out a series of experiments to find out 3 substances in the kitchen that do and 3 that do not dissolve in water. How can you tell when they are/are not dissolved?	Sketch an autumn scene. Add detail to improve it and add colour or shading.

Best wishes,

Mrs Reid