

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you've all had a wonderful time with family and great rest.

Please continue to read with your child at least 5 times each week, also signing the reading record book to show this has happened. Whilst reading is generally very good, with lots of fluency, it's very important for children to be sure they understand what they have read, and are able to answer questions on texts. Some ideas for questions are attached.

Please could children continue to use the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' strategy to practise Y5/6 spellings. We practise them regularly in class, and these words need to be used in writing accurately in order for children to reach the writing expectations for their age groups.

We now have Times Table Rockstars to use to keep practising tables. Should you/your child wish to use them, Topmarks is also available and has lots of useful games: [Times Tables Games for 7 to 11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Times-Tables-Games) 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, all pupils should carry out the **essential book review activity** and also choose at least **three** activities from the grid below (linked to our learning this half-term) to complete by Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February. Children need to bring in evidence of completion of the task, or the work itself. I'll organise a schedule for presenting book reviews with the children directly.

How are magnets used around the home or in workshops? Draw a sketch of a room or garage/shed and label it to show where you could find magnets.	Write a short story, or an account of something you did at the weekend. Use subordinating conjunctions (at least 5) to extend some of your sentences: <b>if, since, as, when, although, while, after, until, before, because</b>	Draw a map of the USA and mark on landmarks where significant events of the Civil Rights Movement took place.	<b>ESSENTIAL = all to carry this out: Book Review</b> Read a book of your choosing. It can be fiction or non-fiction. Decide what you like about it, and anything you didn't enjoy about it as much. Prepare a short talk about the book to present to the class, and be prepared to answer questions.
Find out about the work of Impressionist painters, such as Monet and Seurat. Can you sketch a wintry scene and colour it using some of their techniques?			
Read a traditional Hindu story and then either draw a picture to show a scene from the story, or create a cartoon strip version of the story. Here's a version of Rama and Sita: <a href="#">The Hindu Story of Rama and Sita   Religions of the World - YouTube</a>	Learn a song that you enjoy and sing it to us all. Can you teach it to all of us so that we can join in with you?	Find and read a poem on any theme. Draw an illustration that you think would be suitable for it.	<a href="#">How to take a compass bearing with Steve Backshall and Ordnance Survey - YouTube</a> Watch this video. Can you try out the techniques Steve Backshall shows to take compass bearings (you'll need a compass and an OS map)? Try the skill out on a weekend walk.
Find out about Dr Martin Luther King and write a 10 point factfile about him and his life.	Georges Seurat used <b>pointillism</b> to create slightly blurred, hazy effects. Can you lightly sketch in pencil first, then use pointillism to colour. Felt pens work quite well for this.	Create a wordsearch or crossword using vocabulary and terms linked to Hinduism and Hindu beliefs.	

Best wishes,

Mrs Reid