Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Tom Brunson B.A.(Hons), NPQH

8th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term in Year 5. In this letter you will find information about what we will be learning about this term.

Class Teacher	**Mrs Uppal & Mrs Bharj**	**Support Staff**	**Ms Tatham**
PE Days	**Monday (Autumn 1 term)** and **Fridays** *Please have PE kits in every day*		

ENGLISH	
Our texts this term is:	Sensational & Cosmic
- Written arguments - Newspaper Report - Narrative – Writing in role	

MATHS
In Maths this term we be learning about:
- Place Value - Addition, Subtraction - Multiplication and Division - Fractions

PSRHE
In PSRHE this term we will be learning about:
- Being me in my world - Celebrating differences

RE
In RE this term we will be learning about:
- Colnbrook Values: Resilience - Christianity: Incarnation

TOPIC	
Our project this term is:	**Dynamic Dynasties**
In Dynamic Dynasties, your child will learn about periods of ancient Chinese history. They will explore a timeline of the first five Chinese dynasties and learn about the legends surrounding the beginning of Chinese civilisation. They will take a deep dive into the history of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty and explore evidence found in the ancient city of Yin. They will study oracle bones, learn about religious beliefs and explore bronze artefacts that set the Shang Dynasty apart from other civilisations. They will also study the hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty and discover who was powerful and who was powerless. They will look at warfare and find out how bronze technology gave the Shang Dynasty an advantage over their enemies. They will learn about the life of the great military leader, Fu Hao. The children will then look at significant aspects of life after the Shang Dynasty, including the work of Confucius in the Zhou Dynasty, the short but significant reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and the importance of the Silk Road created by the Han Dynasty. To end the project, your child will find out how ancient China's lasting legacy can be seen in the world today.	
Computing	Online Safety, Programming: music and Micro:bit
A&D	Tints, Tones & Shades
D&T	Moving Mechanisms
Geography	Investigating Our World

*"Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"
Joshua 1:9*

Science	Forces & Mechanisms and Earth & Space
P.E.	Health Related Exercise, Tag Rugby, Counter Balance & Counter Tension, Dodgeball

How you can help at home for this project

- Use a range of sources to create a mind map about the Shang Dynasty. Include the headings: dates, location, how the dynasty began, beliefs, everyday life, warfare, achievements and how the dynasty ended. Use your mind map to write a non-chronological report. Include a title, opening paragraph, subheadings, interesting facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions. Once complete, share your report with a family member.
- Look online for pictures of oracle bones from the Shang Dynasty. Use your existing knowledge, information books or the internet to answer the questions.
    - What is an oracle bone?
    - What were oracle bones used for?
    - Why are oracle bones an important source of evidence for archaeologists and historians to learn about the Shang Dynasty?
- Use information books and the internet to find out about one other dynasty. Choose from the Xia Dynasty, Zhou Dynasty, Qin Dynasty or Han Dynasty. Research their beliefs, government, homes, everyday lives, warfare and achievements. Create an information poster to record your findings. Once complete, compare your chosen dynasty with the Shang Dynasty. Record similarities and differences between the dynasties in a table.
- Use a range of sources to find out about an ancient Chinese achievement, invention or innovation that interests you, such as traditional Chinese medicine, metalworking, the Great Wall of China or Chinese writing. Record your findings as a list of facts and include a picture or drawing.
- Find images of ancient bronze artefacts from the Shang Dynasty that feature taotie designs. Create a piece of art by copying or tracing one or more taotie designs onto paper. Colour your design using paints, felt pens or crayons, using a combination of black, blue and green colours to recreate the patina of the bronze. Share your art with a family member and explain what you have learned about the taotie motif.
- Use a range of sources to find out about the Silk Road. Record your findings and provide information about the purpose of the Silk Road, its length, the route it took, the countries involved, items that were traded and the origin of the name.

Yours sincerely,

A.Bharj & K.Uppal

Mrs Bharj & Mrs Uppal
Class Teacher