



# Year 5 Geckos

We are now over half-way through the year and the Geckos should be very proud of the hard work, creativity and determination that they have put into all aspects of their learning. Our recent themes have included 'Viking Warriors' and 'Wild Frontiers', which have truly inspired the children. There has been a real focus on the Arts, with Year 5 preparing for the Art Award assessments that are coming up soon. A range of activities have included felting workshops with Christina Miller, making Viking Heads and Stone Age artefacts out of clay, as well as developing skills in drawing and using charcoals. These have been supplemented with some wonderful Home Learning projects that the children have produced for the Turner Contemporary Portfolio competition, many of which you can see displayed in the corridors outside Year 5. Events such as our Cosmetic Science STEM Enrichment Day, World Book Day and Science Week, to name just a few, have provided rich learning opportunities across the curriculum.

In Mathematics, we have been learning about how to manipulate fractions, percentages and decimals to help us to solve a wide range of problems and develop our reasoning skills, making sure that calculations are supported with clear workings out. As well as this, we have consolidated our multiplication and division skills, speed and accuracy in these and application to problem solving. The use of our daily arithmetic sessions are really helping us to continue mastering the four mathematical operations, with an extra focus on how to apply these to fractions and decimals.

The focus for English last term was how to write an effective persuasive text, which linked well to our theme, as the imitation stage addressed the question: 'Were the Vikings savages or civilised?' The Geckos enjoyed exploring a range of their own chosen persuasive questions, which they researched and planned with increasing independence. All children finished the term with the ability to write in a mature manner and we are looking forward to showing you more examples of these in the English books at the next Book Share. This term, the focus is on writing a 'Quest story', which links closely to our current class text, 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver. The children have already been developing their mastery of descriptive writing through use of personification, similes and metaphors, as well as their use of direct speech, more powerful verbs, past tense forms and how to create effective flashbacks.

