

Dear Parents,

We had an absolutely brilliant first half term. The children have all settled back into the swing of things and I think the Year 5's have started to get used to my sense of humour!

Our topic this half term is all about:

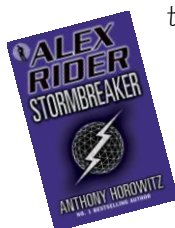
## What goes into making a toy?

We will be focussing on Design Technology through the half term, particularly the process used to design, create and evaluate a product. I'm really excited as we'll be looking at the history of Lego then will design and make our own toy. This will link superbly to our English text...



### English

Our English text this half term will be 'Stormbreaker'. In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.



This is one of my favourite children's books and I know the children will love it! The toys we will create will also double up and secret gadgets, linking to our overall topic.

### Maths

In maths we will continue looking at formal methods for multiplication and division. From this we'll then look at some areas which link closely with these including: prime numbers, factors, square and cubed numbers. We'll then look at geometry and use these skills to create 3D nets for our toy that we'll be creating.



### Science

In science we will be looking at electricity. We will look at how to change the brightness of a bulb or volume of a buzzer within a circuit. We will compare and give reasons for how components function and use recognised symbols to draw our own circuit diagrams. Following this, we'll be able to create circuits for the toys we're going to make and the children will draw the circuit diagram for what's inside their toy.

### Reading/Online Learning

Please continue to support your child in reading, with Mathletics and Spellodrome. They should aim to read at least 3 times per week at home, as well as reading daily in school. There have been several winners of our Mathlete of the Week and Wordsmith of the Week trophy.

### Homework Project 2

Thank you so much for all of your efforts with our first homework project based on Ancient Egypt. They were tremendous! You can see a short video of all of the projects on Twitter or through our website:



With our theme being toys, I wonder if it would be possible for children to make a toy at home, look at the history of one particular toy, explore some famous toy makers through history, bring in a toy from your childhoods.

Somewhere in-amongst all of this we'll doing some Christmassy activities too!

Please contact me if you have any questions. You can either contact me via the school office or my email address is [jwebb@stoneraise.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:jwebb@stoneraise.cumbria.sch.uk)

James Webb