

Year 5 Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a relaxing Christmas break. Ahead of us lie the exciting challenges of the Spring term - Parental support and involvement is vital in Year 5 so here is a summary of what will be covered in class this term.

ENGLISH

Year 5 pupils have begun this term by studying the novel *The Explorer*. We will use this as our stimulus to write a setting description of The Amazon Rainforest looking at positive and negative language. We will also research the Amazon Rainforest and complete a fact file about what we have learnt.

Later in the term we will be studying the novel *Wonder*. We will use the novel to write a letter from the main character's point of view showing his experiences starting school. We will also write an inspirational speech explaining how to overcome challenges and difficulties.

Finally, we will study Michael Rosen poetry and create our own silly verse.

Year 5 will be taking part in daily 'Guided Reading' sessions where they will be immersed in each of the texts and they will work on their VIPER skills.

Throughout all of this English work, pupils will also work on improving their spelling, grammar and punctuation skills.



MATHS

Year 5 have made an excellent start to maths in the autumn term, and will continue to develop their mathematical knowledge in the spring.

We will be looking at multiplication and division during weeks 1-3, we will draw upon learnt skills and prior knowledge to be able to multiply and divide larger numbers using formal written methods.

We will then continue with Fractions, as we focus on multiplying fractions by integers.

Later in the term we will move on to decimals and percentages by comparing them with fractions.

In Spring 2, we will start a new topic focusing on area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes. Our final topic for this term is statistics.

This will allow the children the opportunity to read and interpret graphs, two-way tables and timetables.

RE

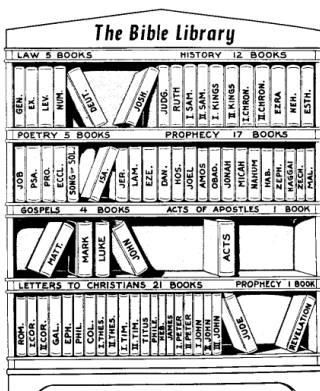
We continue to follow the Archdiocese of Birmingham RE strategy.

This Spring term, Year 5 will be learning more about Christmas. We will also learn more about the Parables and Sayings of Jesus throughout his life.

During Spring 2, we will be focusing on the period of Lent and Easter.

Children will also be exploring the meaning and importance of prayer in the lives of Christians.

Of course, throughout the year we continue to consider the importance of the Catholic Sacraments including the Mass which children experience every weekend.



GEOGRAPHY/HISTORY

During the first half of the spring term, the children will be looking at natural disasters with a particular focus on volcanoes and earthquakes. We will be drawing upon our learning from last term relating to physical geography.

We will be looking at why and how these natural disasters occur, where they are located and names of disasters that have occurred around the world. Further to this, we will be using atlases and digital mapping to locate natural disasters.

In Spring 2, we will be moving to history as we look at the topic of the Vikings vs the Anglo-Saxons.

In this module we will be looking at applying sequencing to this historical time period, to be able to give clear reasons why account and sources may differ and being able to use the dates and terms accurately within our work.



SCIENCE

Year 5 pupils will start a new topic this term focusing on 'Living Things and their habitats (including humans). The children will be looking at life cycles of humans to begin with and will create a cycle explaining the stages of human development.

Further to this, the children will look at gestation and compare this to other animals.

In Spring 2, we will continue with living things as we look at life cycles of different animals, mammals, amphibians and insects.

We will then move on to labelling and naming the different reproduction parts of a flower and finally, being able to describe the reproduction process in animals.

COMPUTING

We start this term by focusing on Spreadsheets. During this topic the children will learn how to input data into a cell and create a formula to manipulate the data.

For the rest of Spring term, Year 5 will be learning how to use a database. In this topic they will learn how to input information into a database and then run a search to identify answers that meet that criteria.

Throughout the year the children will be reminded about online safety. They will also have the opportunity to practise their keyboard skills and be able to research information using a search engine.

PE

During Games sessions on Thursdays, Year 5 will be working on their gymnastics skills. They will also have the opportunity to have swimming lessons during the second half of the spring term.

During P.E. lessons on Tuesday's pupils will be working with the class teacher on improving their maths and English skills through PE (Active Maths and English).

During the second half of the spring term year five will be taught cricket skills.

ART and D+T

Year 5 have started the spring term by learning the life and work of Vincent Van Gogh. They have researched his most famous pieces of art and will recreate one of these in their own style.

Children will be moving on after half term to a DT project where they will investigate levers and linkages. They will understand how these are used to make objects move. They will use their knowledge to design and create their own workable lever and linkage. At each stage the children will evaluate and improve their work.

At home

Please encourage your child to read as much as they can at home and persuade them to read a wide range of texts (fiction and non-fiction). It would be very useful if they could recall all of their times tables with speed and accuracy.

P.E. and games lessons will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child is wearing their kit on these days. They can wear black jogging bottoms when the weather gets colder.

If there is anything you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to write a note in your child's homework diary or have a chat at 3.35pm. We look forward to working with you.

Mrs Walsh and Miss Kelly
Year 5 Class teachers