

Year 5 Class Newsletter: Spring Term 2023

Welcome to Year 5's first newsletter of 2023. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and had a relaxing break. I would also like to thank you all for your very generous gifts; they were very much appreciated.

This term, the children will be studying the following:

English: First half-term: We are currently continuing our work on 'The Explorer' which the children have been really enjoying. They will write additional segments and chapters to the book. They will also write from the perspective of different characters in the form of diaries and letters. In addition, they will write in a range of non-fiction genres such as instructions, non-chronological reports and persuasive texts. After reading the book, the children will plan and write their own sequel. We will also continue to develop our reading comprehension skills.

Second half-term: Our class text will be 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross Mackenzie. This is a fantasy adventure story which is full of magic and mystery. In our fiction writing, we will focus on creating descriptions of settings and characters. We will also write alternative versions of chapters and write from the perspectives of the main characters in the form of diary entries. They will also write their own short fantasy adventure story based on elements of the book and try to write in the style of the author. In our non-fiction writing, we will write non-chronological reports to describe 'The Emporium', persuasive advertisements and explanation texts. In addition, we will also make cross-curricular links to our topics In History and Science.

Throughout the term, we will also be looking closely at a range of grammar terminology and ensuring that we can apply our knowledge to improve the overall quality of our writing. We will also look at different sentence types and in particular the structure of complex sentences. We will also greatly focus on the importance of basic punctuation and move on to understand more advanced punctuation marks such as brackets, dashes and colons.

Maths: So far this term, we have continued our work on 'Fractions'. We will shortly move on to focus on 'Multiplication and Division'. Here is an overview of the key objectives that we will cover during the first half-term:

'Fractions': Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator and denominators that are multiples of the same number; multiply proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers, supported by materials and diagrams; read and write decimal numbers as fractions; solve problems involving multiplication and division, including scaling by simple fractions and related problems.

'Multiplication and Division': Multiply and divide numbers mentally drawing upon known facts; multiply numbers up to 4 digits by a one or two-digit number using a formal written method, including long multiplication for two-digit numbers; divide numbers up to 4 digits by a one-digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context; solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these, including understanding the meaning of the equals sign.

During the second half-term, we will focus more on 'Decimals and Percentages'. Here is an overview of the key objectives that we will cover during the second half-term:

'Decimals and Percentages': Read, write, order and compare numbers with up to 3 decimal places; recognise and use thousandths and relate them to tenths, hundredths and decimal equivalents; round decimals with 2 decimal places to the nearest whole number and to 1 decimal place; solve problems involving number up to 3 decimal places; recognise the percent symbol (%) and understand that percent relates to "number of parts per 100", and write percentages as a fraction with denominator 100, and as a decimal fraction; solve problems which require knowing percentage and decimal equivalents of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{2}{5}$, $\frac{4}{5}$ and fractions with a denominator of a multiple of 10 or 25.

Throughout these topics, the children will be looking at developing their using and applying skills, mathematical reasoning and mental arithmetic. In addition, the children will focus on revising and further enhancing their written arithmetic skills. We will also recap on the related Year 4 objectives.

Religious Education: Our first topic this term is 'Inspirational People'. We will consider how Jesus taught us to live our lives and what it means to be inspirational. We will look closely at the Beatitudes and discuss how they remind us how to be true followers of Jesus. We will learn about some very special people such as St. Damien De Veuster, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Edith Stein and St. Leopold Mandic. We will reflect on how we can follow their examples in our daily lives.

After half-term, our topic will be 'Reconciliation'. We will reflect upon the consequences of actions and how sin hurts us, others and our relationship with God. We will consider how God is love and is always ready to forgive us. We will also learn about the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reflect upon what it means to experience forgiveness.

Science: Our first topic is 'Earth and Space'. In this topic, we will consider the scientific evidence which proves that the Earth and planets are spherical bodies. We will learn about how the planets move and we will explain why, on Earth, we experience night and day at different times.

After half-term, our topic will be 'Forces'. In this topic, the children will learn about the force of gravity and the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will also learn that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

History: This term, we will continue to work on our topic 'The Ancient Maya'. We will continue learning all about this ancient civilisation including where the people lived, their religious beliefs and customs; their food and entertainment; their number system and the celebration of Mayan culture in tourism today.

After half-term, we will be exploring the local history of our area during Victorian times and make comparisons to our lives today. We will start by placing this era of history on a timeline and identify important milestones. We will move on to look at local census data and how our school and local area have changed from Victorian times. We will be learning about what life was like for children in this era. In addition, we will learn about the life of Queen Victoria and explore her family tree.

Geography: Our learning enquiry question for geography this term is: 'Why are mountains so important?' We will be learning to understand how geographers define mountains, to explain how the world's greatest mountain ranges are formed, to compare and contrast mountain ranges around the world, to use an OS map and to understand the environmental impact of renewable energy schemes. We will also be focusing on our geographical skills throughout the lessons.

Computing: This term, the children will be developing their internet skills, learning how to use search technologies effectively; to appreciate how results are selected and ranked and to be discerning in evaluating digital content. They will research and compose digital work relating to our topics in RE, History, Science and Art.

Art: This term, we will start by learning about Mayan artists and replicate pieces in their different styles. We will also be studying the work of the Victorian artist, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. We will analyse his architecture and paintings to create our own floral piece using a variety of watercolour pencils and paint. In addition, we will study the work of William Morris and explore the style and techniques he used. We will also create artwork linked to our class texts in English. Based on 'The Nowhere Emporium', the children will produce pieces linked to descriptive scenes from the book using a variety of media. In addition, the children will also complete artwork related to their Science, History and RE topics.

PE: On Wednesday afternoons, the children will participate in PE lessons with Fulham Football Club. This term, the children will be focusing on target games in PE. They will be practicing their underarm throws and overarm throws, catching, target hitting and learning to understand attacking and defending principles. Please ensure that your child comes to school on this day in their full school PE kit.

Homework: Homework will continue to be set on Friday and will be due on Thursday. Children will be given an English and Maths task, as well as occasional topic tasks. Spelling lists will be given for the children to learn for a test the following Friday. Additional challenge tasks will be set which can be completed if the children would like to do so. Therefore these are not compulsory.

All children should read for at least twenty minutes at home each night. They should also be working on ensuring that they are fully secure in the rapid recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12, as well as identifying related division facts and square numbers. The children will continue to complete timed times tables challenges in class to help increase the pace of their recall. I would also encourage the children to complete tasks on Mathematics. There will be times when I set tasks for the children to complete at home as part of their weekly homework.

Homework will be reviewed together as a class and marked by either themselves or their peers to ensure that they receive instant feedback. The children will be given opportunities to share their answers with the class and model these to their peers. I will check whether the tasks have been completed and give verbal feedback to the children where needed.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to the term ahead.

Miss Hanley