

Year 5

Autumn Term, 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and it is an absolute joy to welcome them back to school. The children have settled in to life in Year 5 very well and we hope they are happy. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with them. Please rest assured that your children's safety, mental health and wellbeing will always be our top priority, in addition to their learning. We have built a 'Recovery Curriculum' into our teaching plans to ensure that we can identify any gaps in learning which may have arisen due to the challenges of Covid 19. We will be working hard to address those gaps wherever they may arise and, of course, to encourage your children to enjoy their learning, flourish and reach their full potential.

The topics for this term are as follows:

Religious Education

We will be studying The Creation and God's Covenants. The children will learn about the creation of the world and how God has asked us to be good stewards of it. After half term the children will become familiar with the covenants God has made with people in the past and especially the New Covenant He has made with us. We will have one week studying Judaism.

English

We have begun the term using the picture book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers as a stimulus for writing poetry, letters, information reports and even song lyrics! The book provides a powerful vehicle for the children to reflect on and make sense of the world we are all living in and hopefully to help them understand their place in the world and how to move forward together in a positive and constructive way. After this project we will be using a very exciting and descriptive class novel, 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross MacKenzie as a stimulus for writing character descriptions and narratives. After half term our writing focus will link to our History topic, the Victorians and we will be writing diaries, information reports and formal letters.

Throughout the term, we will be looking closely at spellings and a range of grammar terminology. We will revise the different word classes and different sentence types, in particular the structure of complex sentences. We will focus on the importance of accurate punctuation, especially the correct use of commas. We will be developing our reading comprehension skills with a wide variety of interesting and challenging texts.

Mathematics

At the start of the term the children have been investigating place value for larger numbers of 5, 6 and 7 digits. We are now moving on to practising and developing our formal addition and subtraction skills; rounding numbers to estimate and approximate and applying our knowledge to solving multi-step problems. Our statistics work this term will focus on reading and interpreting line graphs, tables and timetables. We will be working on our multiplication and division skills and particularly focusing on common factors of numbers, prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers. Finally, we will be reviewing our understanding of measuring perimeter and area and moving on to calculate the areas of compound and irregular shapes.

Science

Our first topic is 'Properties and changes of materials'. The children will sort and classify objects according to their properties. They will explore the properties of materials to find the most suitable material for different purposes. They will then look at soluble and insoluble materials and how to separate them. Finally, The children will learn about the reversible and irreversible changes of materials.

Our second topic is Forces and Friction. We will be learning about balanced and unbalanced forces, gravity, friction and the use of mechanisms such as levers, gears and pulleys. The children will identify forces and complete force diagrams. They will find out about Isaac Newton and his discoveries about gravity; completing a comprehension about his life and his work. The children will also look for patterns and links between the mass and weight of objects, using newton metres to measure the force of gravity.

Computing

This term in Computing the children will be developing and extending their Digital Literacy skills by designing and creating their own infomercials using iMovie. They will also be using software (PowerPoint) to create slideshows which show a clear sense of purpose. We will be teaching the children about the importance of internet safety so that they are able to demonstrate safe and respectful behaviours online and always follow the safety rules.

Art

In Art we will be studying the use of colour, space, line and form by the artists Joan Miro and Piet Mondrian to create our own paintings. We will then examine the Victorian artist Charles Rennie Macintosh's rose piece and practise how to use tone, shade and tint in our artwork. After this, we will learn about the work of William Morris and develop our printing skills. Finally, we will be using all our creative design skills to create Victorian Christmas decorations.

PE

PE will be taught on Fridays. Please ensure that the children come to school in their PE kit on this day. Our topics will be Dance, Hockey and Circuit Training activities.

Homework

Homework for the week will be given to the children on Wednesday via Google Classroom. I would like the homework to be uploaded and submitted by Tuesday of the following week. I will give the children spellings to learn; a grammar activity; a reading comprehension to do and a Maths activity. There will be occasions when I will ask the children to learn a poem or complete a project related to our topics instead of, or as well as, the usual set homework. The children will have a spelling test on Tuesdays and they will have regular times table tests.

Above all, please encourage your children to read every night and to enjoy talking about their reading as much as possible. We want them to love reading and become life-long readers!

Please do contact me through the office if you have any questions or concerns about anything at all. I am here to help and want the very best for your children.

Kindest regards,

Miss Sinclair