

## Year 5 Newsletter January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer/Children,

A happy new year to all of you and I hope you have had a restful break. I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of the children in Y5 for working so hard in the autumn term. The latest set of assessments show that the children are making fantastic progress.

### **Literacy**

In literacy this term, we are starting by writing newspaper reports. Considering the current situation in Australia, we thought it would provide us with an excellent opportunity to become reporters. The children will report on the bush fires whilst learning a bit about the geography of Australia as well. In grammar, we will be continuing to look at relative clauses, modal verbs, prepositions, fronted adverbials and parenthesis. If you are not sure what these are, ask your child – you'll be amazed at what they know.

The latest set of assessment data showed that there is room for improvement in spellings. Therefore, the literacy homework for the time being is going to focus largely on spellings. Spellings just need to be practised and practised. The children are still required to read **every night**. Please ensure that an adult signs their reading record to show that they have read, otherwise we cannot give them rewards for reading at home.

### **Maths**

In Maths, we are having a huge focus on fractions and decimals. Any websites that your child can visit in order to practice their fractions, decimals and percentages skills will be really useful. There are links to maths games on the school website and I will be setting plenty of Mathletics tasks to help the children with fractions.

Please remember that children are required to know all of their times tables off by heart by the end of Y4. If they do not, they are considered to be working below age related expectations. The children all have a Times Tables Rock Stars account, which they can access at home. If your child is already secure in their times tables, it is important that they continue to practise so that they are as fast as possible, which will increase their mental calculations in other areas of Maths.

### **Geography**

Our topic this term is entitled 'Where does all our stuff come from?' It is a Geography topic and the first time we have taught it at St. John's. The focus is to look at importing/exporting and where in the world our everyday products come from. The children will look at maps to find out how far things travel before reaching us and will also weigh up the pros and cons of buying local produce vs products made/grown elsewhere.

### **Science**

Our science unit for this half term is looking at animals including humans. Over the coming weeks we will be looking at how animals and humans grow and change as they get older.

## **Design and Technology**

The children will be designing and making their own model fairground rides using motors and pulleys to make it turn. They will have the opportunity to use saws, glue guns and measuring equipment to create their models.

## **ICT**

ICT this term will focus on databases. We have discussed how databases store information that can be easily retrieved by people. Google is an example of a huge database and the children will create and use their own 'mini-Google' using computer software.

## **RE**

The children will be asking the question, 'Why do some people believe in God and some do not?' This unit of work looks at the differences between theists, atheists and agnostics. We will be discussing the evidence for creationism vs the evidence for evolution and why different people believe different things. During these lessons, we never try to influence the children either way, we simply discuss both viewpoints and allow them to think about their own beliefs.

## **PSHCE**

The children are looking at mental and physical health. The number of children suffering from mental illnesses is on the rise and during these lessons we will discuss what a mental illness is and what contributes to it. Equally, we will be looking at strategies for keeping ourselves mentally and physically fit.

## **PE**

The children are swimming this half term so please ensure they bring a swimming kit on a Friday. If a child is unable to go swimming for a medical reason, this must be received in writing. Please note that swimming is a compulsory part of the curriculum and unless a valid reason is given, children are required to attend.

## **Important Reminders**

Monday – PE

Thursday – Spellings test; hand homework in

Friday – Swimming

Children **MUST** bring their reading book and reading record to school every day, even if it is a book from home.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ramsay