

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a wonderful Easter break and that you enjoyed the glorious sunshine that we experienced in the first week. It is so wonderful to have all the children back in school and to be teaching proper lessons to real humans rather than talking into an iPad! The children have settled back in so well. It is true what they say about children being more resilient than adults.

This term, despite the fact that SATs are cancelled, we endeavour to do everything we can to ensure the children are secondary ready by the time they leave us in July. Please read below for information on what subjects we will be covering.

English Reading

Each day we complete a 30 min guided reading lesson. The focus of the sessions is to read a text quickly and answer a range of questions. There is little doubt that the children will have to sit some form of reading assessment on entering Year 7 so we are preparing them for this in a similar way to if we were preparing for SATs.

English Writing

We are starting by writing a discussion text. This form of writing (sometimes known as debate) looks at a contentious subject and discusses both sides of the argument. Whilst writing, we will revise ALL of the relevant Year 5 and 6 writing targets. These include:

- Brackets to indicate parenthesis.
- Semi-colons to demarcate independent clauses.
- Fronted adverbials.
- Expanded noun phrases.
- Ambitious vocabulary.

As you can see, Year 6 writing is no easy task so we will work hard to catch the children up.

Maths

The children completed a maths assessment before the Easter break to give me an idea of where the children needed extra support. The maths curriculum is huge and we haven't got the time to cover absolutely everything that was missed due to the closures. The assessment allowed us to see where the biggest gaps in children's knowledge were and 'fractions' definitely needs work. We are going to spend a significant chunk of this half term revising what we learnt in Year 5 and then covering the Year 6 targets. The children always have plenty of Mathematics tasks related to fractions so if you would like to see what the children are expected to be able to do, ask them to show you!

Science and DT

Our science topic for this half term is 'Electricity.' The children will use practical equipment to investigate how circuits work. They will also learn how to draw a circuit diagram and, through reading, find out about key figures in the discovery of electricity, such as Benjamin Franklin.

Once the children are confident with how a circuit works, they will use this knowledge to build a 'steady hand game' in DT. A steady hand game is where a loop is moved around a wire, if the two touch, a buzzer sounds.

History

Anglo-Saxons is the focus in History. This Year 5 unit was missed due to the first lockdown so we are picking it up now. The children will use a range of sources to find out who the Anglo-Saxons were; where they came from; when they lived; why they settled in Britain and what life was like in an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

RE

In RE, we are learning about the Jewish faith. The children will look at Jewish symbolism and traditions, making links between Christianity and other faiths that they have studied.

PSHE

The focus of our PSHE lessons is 'Keeping Safe.' Taking responsibility for their own safety is particularly important as the children move onto secondary school so we will cover risks that the children are likely to encounter in the real world. These include electricity, drugs, water, railways, online, roads and fire.

After the half term, we will be teaching the children about puberty. We feel it is important that the children understand the changes that their bodies will go through as they become young adults to help reduce the anxiety and stress that it can cause. I will provide you with more information about these sessions before we deliver them.

PE

Mrs. Penteney and Miss Wright run two sessions per week on a Monday and a Friday. As the weather is looking better, the children will be taught cricket skills. If there is a day when the children cannot go outside, they will practise yoga in the school hall.

Please ensure that your child reads for at least 20 min per night. We check reading records everyday so it is important that they are signed to show that your child has read.

Once again, thank you for all your support this last year and thank you to the children for coming back with a positive attitude. I will do everything I can to ensure that your child's final term with us is a memorable one.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Ramsay



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