



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Year Five Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful, relaxing summer break and are enjoying getting back into the school routine again. It is lovely to be back in the classroom with such a happy and eager class - they have all grown so much over the summer and I feel privileged to help them along their learning journey for another year.

Reading

As you know, regular reading has a huge impact on a child's progress and your support is always greatly appreciated. We continue to have daily guided reading covering a very wide range of texts to help develop vocabulary and knowledge in a range of subjects. The children will be looking at a variety of question types to deepen their understanding and comprehension skills.

In year 5, there is an expectation for children to **read every night for a minimum of 15 minutes**. This can be completed on Reading Eggs (Reading Planets or Read Theory – your child will know which program they use) **or** using a school book. Children are more than welcome to use a book from home as their reading book but they must ensure that it is the correct level of challenge for them and that it is brought into school every day. We encourage parents to use a mixture of 'online' and 'offline' reading throughout the week. When reading with your child, please discuss what the text is about to ensure a secure understanding. In addition, asking the children to summarise what they have read and give opinions will help to boost their reading progress.

Reading books and a new 'Learning Journal' will be coming home this week. These learning journals are designed to be completed each term and have an area where the children can record their homework expectations each week. **Please sign the learning journal every day** and let us know about your child's successes, or indeed any struggles – this is invaluable for us to support them further. Our class novel this term is 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. This novel links with our history topic and will hopefully inspire some wonderful creative writing.

Writing

This half term, we are focusing on writing 'defeating the monster' stories. The children will be using the story of Beowulf and a range of other stories to inspire some impressive setting descriptions, character descriptions and plot writing. Later in the term, we will also be writing some narrative poetry using The Highway Man by Alfred Noyes.

Spellings will be set on Purple Mash every **Friday**. Please encourage your children to access extra spelling practise on Purple Mash (or on paper) whenever an opportunity may arise in preparation for their weekly spelling test each **Friday**. The children will be beginning to learn Y5/6 statutory spellings, which will require extra dedication and determination from the children as they face this new challenge in UKS2. I am sure they will take this in their stride, as they always do.

Maths

This half term our main focus will be on mental maths, place value, addition and subtraction. We will also begin statistics and multiplication and division strategies later in the term. The children are continuing to work hard to build their mental agility to ensure they are confident to tackle some tricky problem solving.

The children are expected to learn and know all of their times tables up to 12 x12 forwards, backwards and randomly before they enter year 5. Frequent counting and chanting of different multiples at home is highly beneficial to your child's ability to retain their knowledge from last year and ensure progress where necessary. Additionally, Times Tables Rockstars is brilliant at building speed and confidence. During the Autumn Term of Year 5, children are expected to be gaining **300 correct answers** on Times Tables Rockstars and completing a minimum of **3 tasks** on Mathletics each week – this forms part of their homework.

This term in Science we will be looking at 'Earth and Space' which is a brilliant topic to get started with as it inspires children to question the world around them and take responsibility for independent research. Later in the term, we will be looking at properties and changes of materials. The children thoroughly enjoyed this topic last year so I am sure they will be excited to build on their existing knowledge.

In RE we will be studying 'People of God' and considering 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' The children will learn about 'Incarnation' and reflecting on the question; 'Was Jesus the Messiah?'

PE will take place on a **Monday** and **Friday**. Children will need labelled trainers and PE kits in school each day. PE kits should be left in school until half term. For health and safety reasons, please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs. If your child requires an inhaler, please ensure they are in date and in school.

The children will be resuming their Ukulele music lessons this term.

In history we will be studying the Anglo-Saxons and asking; 'Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a dark age?' Then transitioning smoothly into the Vikings and considering, 'Would the Vikings do anything for money?'

This term's Design Technology focus is food sustainability and the children will be looking at healthy choices. Whilst in art the children's topic is drawing. They will be looking at Anglo-Saxon jewellery and taking inspiration from Olivia Kemp and Pablo Picasso's styles to design their own jewellery.

New homework will be set on Friday. Homework is set online using Purple Mash (spellings), Times Tables Rockstars, Mathletics and Reading Express/ Reading Planets/ Read Theory (your children are aware which program they should use) and Numbots. **Homework will be set weekly in the children's learning journals.**

Please remind children, all homework is checked before the start of school on Friday morning.

Some useful websites to inspire or promote learning:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> (Mental Maths - especially doubles and halves)

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/> (Some fun games with a maths focus)

[Earth and space - KS2 Science - BBC Bitesize](#) (Science – Earth and Space)

[Anglo-Saxons - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#) (History - The Anglo-Saxons)

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/> (A very useful website which covers a wide range of subjects)

As I am sure you are aware, the children are now exiting school from the KS2 door. Your patience is always greatly appreciated at home time while the children wait their turn to ensure they have informed an adult who they are leaving with. Your children's safety is our main priority.

Clubs will be resuming as normal shortly, exact dates and further information will be communicated in the coming days.

We are really happy to share that we can now hold a meet the teacher session just after school on **Tuesday 7th September**. I know we are now all familiar with each other but this is usually a lovely chance to visit your child's new classroom and take the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please do not worry if you cannot make this session. As always, I am available on the playground afterschool for any quick questions. For anything which requires a longer chat, I am always happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time. We do ask that when visiting school and speaking with members of staff you continue to wear a face mask when possible. By working together, we can ensure that the children are happy and are able to continue to approach new challenges with confidence and achieve success.

As always, thank you so much for your continued interest and support.

Miss Meehan

Year 5 Class Teacher



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