



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr M Ramsay B.A (Hons) Primary Education

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### Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break. Weren't the children absolutely fantastic in their Christmas production! We were so proud of all of them, including some 'unexpected' stars who brought us some very special and memorable moments. As always, we have a very busy term ahead but I know the children will work hard and continue with the excellent progress they made last term.

#### English

This term, we are going to tackle some more Shakespeare. Macbeth is our key text – lots of drama and tragedy which I know will go down a storm. We will also be looking at some classic poetry: The Lady of Shallot by Alfred Lord Tennyson and The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe – both are very challenging but are worth the effort and I know the children will enjoy exploring them. We will be reading as much and as widely as possible, both fiction and non-fiction linked to all subjects. Book Week starts on 28<sup>th</sup> February with dressing up day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – I can't wait to see more of your fantastic creative ideas.

Our writing this term will include newspaper reports, explanation texts and discussion texts (another big hit I'm sure – lots of strong opinions in Y6!). My teaching focus this half term will be on high quality vocabulary, using dialogue to develop characters and plot, passive voice (tricky!) and using a wide range of punctuation which you will see in their reading homework. To reach age related expectations for Y6 the children must be writing legible in a cursive, joined style and spelling must be accurate. Keeping an eye on this when they are completing homework would be a real help. [www.kidspell.com](http://www.kidspell.com), [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) and [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) all have games to support spelling and grammar.

I am absolutely delighted with the children's reading habits – almost everyone reads a significant amount of text every night. Thank you so much for encouraging them. The children will be bringing some examples of SATs style questions home. They are very used to doing these questions verbally in guided reading and now we are practising writing answers accurately, precisely and quickly. The children also have access to 'Read Theory' which proved very successful with last year's Y6 and 'Rising Stars Planets' which are longer texts to support fluency and stamina.

#### Maths



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This term we will focus on choosing appropriate strategies (mental, jottings or formal calculations) to prepare children for the demands of the arithmetic test. We will revise knowledge and skills in all aspects of maths but the real focus will be on using and applying those in problem solving situations. Homework will provide extra practise using SATs style questions. All children have free access to 'Mathletics' and we are encouraging the children to use this at home for extra practise. [www.academics.com](http://www.academics.com) and [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com) are also full of fun maths games. Children need to be really secure with multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times tables and they also need to learn equivalent measures (length, weight, capacity, time and money).

#### **PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT THURSDAY IS HOMEWORK DAY**

We spend some class time going over successes and things we need to practise so it is important that children have their work with them.

#### **Science**

Our focus this term is "The Circulatory System" so we will be learning all about the heart and lungs and how diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle eating have a massive impact on our health. We will also be looking at light which involves lots of practical activities to help us understand how light travels and how we are able to see.

#### **R.E.**

We will be looking at 'Creation and Science: conflict or complement?' – this a valuable opportunity for children to explore differences of opinion respectfully and consider their own viewpoints. We will also study 'What Kind of King is Jesus?'

#### **Geography**

Our geography work this term explores how we are damaging our environment but also gives us opportunities to consider how we might minimise this. Computing covers online safety and in art we will be focusing on painting and printing. PHSE and Citizenship work is focused around recognising and managing pressure and valuing diversity.

#### **PE**

PE continues on Monday and Friday. Please ensure the children have their kit in school so that lessons can begin promptly and valuable time is not wasted. In accordance with health and safety updated guidance, **earrings should not be worn on P.E. days unless children are able to remove them and put them back in themselves**. If your child requires an inhaler, it is essential that you make sure they are in date and in school.

We have lots of hard work ahead as we begin preparations for the national tests ([SATs week – 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May](#)). The tests will be, without a doubt, very challenging. However, there is no need for anyone to panic or start feeling stressed. We will prepare thoroughly and provide the children with lots of opportunities to practise their skills. They will see lots of examples of test style questions so that by the time the tests come around it will be "just another day at the office" as they say on TV!

I look forward to seeing you on Open Evening (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March). However, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Thank you for your support last term. I look forward to another very successful term with a great class of children.

Your interest is greatly appreciated.

Mrs M Brown



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