



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you have all had a magical Christmas period spending some well-needed time with loved ones. The children have been excited to share all their Christmas stories and are enjoying getting back into the school routine again. We are looking ahead to another busy yet exciting term.

Reading

As you know, regular reading has a huge impact on a child's progress in reading, writing, spelling and all other curriculum areas. Your continued support with regular reading is always greatly appreciated. In addition, reading out loud is essential for the children as it helps build their confidence, expression, tone and intonation. 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 are continuing to develop their stamina with reading and should be able to comfortably read for longer periods as the year progresses.

In year 5, there is an expectation for children to **read every night for a minimum of 15 minutes**. This can be completed on Rising Stars **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 as well as providing opportunities for the children to read out-loud as often as possible. 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.

Fresh learning journals have been sent home this 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 'Romeo and Juliet' by Andrew Matthews, adapted from the famous Shakespeare play. The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading this author's work in the past so I am sure they will be excited.

Writing

This half term, we will be writing a range of non-fiction texts in addition to developing our narrative skills. The children will be using the story of Romeo and Juliet and a range of other stories to inspire some fantastic letter writing, newspaper articles, dialogue, diary entries and descriptive pieces. Later in the term, we will also be analysing some poetry beginning with poems by John McCrae.

Spellings will be set on Purple Mash every **Friday**. Please encourage your children to access spelling practise on Purple Mash (or on paper) whenever an opportunity may arise in preparation for their weekly spelling test each **Friday**. The children are continuing to learn the Y5/6 statutory spellings, which are tricky so any extra support and practise will support your children with this new challenge.

Maths

This half term we will be working on statistics, multiplication, division and fractions as well as keeping on top of our mental maths skills. There is some challenging problem solving tasks planned in, which I am sure the children will enjoy getting stuck into!

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 Rock Stars is brilliant at building speed and confidence. Unless otherwise stated, Children are expected to be gaining **300 correct answers** on Times Tables Rock Stars and completing a minimum of **3 tasks** on Mathletics each week – this forms part of their homework.

This term in Science, we are looking at 'Properties and Changes in Materials' which involves lots of hands on investigations for the children. This is a super topic to get the children exploring and experimenting with familiar and unfamiliar materials while promoting

independent investigative/enquiry skills. Later in the term, we will be looking at 'Forces'.

In RE we will be continuing to study the Big Question: 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' The children will also be considering: 'Why do some people believe in God and others not?' The children are brilliant at looking at many sides of the argument and will continue building their religious literacy throughout the year.

PE will take place on a **Monday** and **Friday**. Children will need labelled trainers and PE kits in school **each day** as often tournaments, different clubs and occasional changes in timetable can occur. Children are more than welcome to bring kits home each Friday to have them washed.

IMPORTANT - Due to recent changes in health and safety guidance, children must not wear any form of earrings during PE lessons. If your child cannot take their earrings out independently, they must not wear them on PE days. If your child requires an inhaler, please ensure they are in date and in school.

The children have worked so hard during ukulele lessons over the last term and I am sure you were all very proud watching them perform their Christmas songs on the school website. The children will be continuing their ukulele lessons this term.

In History we will be studying the Vikings and asking; 'Would the Vikings do anything for money?' Then we will be moving on to Geography and investigating the question: 'How is our country changing?', which will focus on environmental changes.

The children have loved making their Viking stew in Design Technology and later in the term, they will be beginning to design their own structures. In Art the children's topic is painting. The unit of work will focus on portraits and the children will study artists such as Freda Kahlo and Roy Lichtenstein.

New homework will be set on Friday. Homework is set online using Purple Mash (spellings), Times Tables Rockstars, Mathletics, Rising Stars and Numbots. This term, some paper homework will also be sent home.

Please remind children, all online homework is checked before the start of school on Friday morning and paper homework on Friday during the school day.

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)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcvv4wx> (Science – Brilliant videos about changing materials)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6> (History - The Vikings)

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

Clubs will be resuming as normal from week beginning 10th January.

Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday 3rd March. We will issue more details about this nearer the time.

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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