



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Year Five Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2023

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 them build 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 20 minutes**. This can be completed on Reading Buddy **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 reading journals were sent home last week. **Please remind children to write in their reading journal everyday ready for you to sign**. The children know that the daily box should be filled with their questions or comments about their reading. This is invaluable for us to understand if the children are developing their understanding and engaging well with their books.

This term we will be finishing the novel '**Once**' by **Morris Gleitzman**. Many of the children have loved sharing this book together if your child does want to continue this series, there are 5 further books to tackle. Our class novel this term is 'Romeo and Juliet' by Andrew Matthews.

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 every **Friday**. Please encourage your children to practise little and often, as revisiting the spellings in small bursts will have the most impact on their progress. 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 multiplication, division and fractions then on to decimals and percentages as well as keeping up our mental maths skills. There is some challenging problem solving ahead, 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 Rockstars is brilliant at building speed and confidence. Unless otherwise stated, 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 are looking at 'Forces' and 'Living things and their habitats' with a focus on plants. This topic does include

sexual and asexual reproduction and the scientific process which occurs to create offspring. If you have any questions about this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

In RE the children will 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. We will then be exploring the question 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' during the Easter period.

PE will take place on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Children will need labelled trainers and PE kits in school **each day** as often tournaments, different clubs and frequent changes in timetable can occur. Children are more than welcome to bring kits home each Friday to have them washed. For health and safety reasons, only stud earrings can be worn in school. Additionally, due to changes in guidance, children must remove stud earrings for all sports. 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 music lessons over the last term and I am sure you will have heard all about their wonderful singing and percussion practise. They are developing an understanding of how music changes across continents and how to change the feeling of music using tone and pitch. They will soon be beginning to sing together and develop harmonies.

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 will be making Viking stew in their Design Technology lessons this term. 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 Times Tables Rockstars, Mathletics, Reading Buddy and Numbots. Spellings will continue to be set on paper and sent home in the children's homework file.

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 teaching videos)

<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 9th January.

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. 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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