

Year 5 Newsletter Spring Term 1 2024

'Exploring the Americas' Themed Half Term

Year 5

Y5 Staff: Miss Hegedüs
Mrs Mihedji, Mrs Warrilow

Welcome back! I hope you had a fantastic Christmas break and New Year celebration. This half term I hope the children will be excited to get learning about the Americas!

If you have any queries or concerns about your child's progress or well-being, please do not hesitate to make an after-school appointment to speak to me.



Important Days

Thursday

AM: Swimming at Wetherby Leisure Centre.

Friday

AM: Golden Book Assembly - parents/carers invited.

AM: Ukulele music lessons.

Homework due and reading diaries should be signed by parents. Spelling tests will take place on Fridays. Children should bring their reading diaries and school books into school every day.

PM: PE is on a Friday.

Please label all uniform.

RE

In RE this half term, we will learn about the many inspirational people from all walks around the world that lived the way Jesus inspires us to live each day. We will reflect on what it means to be an inspirational person and what qualities and traits these inspirational people had. We will also make links to how the command 'Love your neighbour!' informs our behaviour and actions. During this half term, we will be exploring the meaning of being a true disciple and will think about how we can live this out in our daily lives.



English

Our class novel this half term is "**The Explorer**" by Katherine Rundell which is set in the Amazon Rainforest. This has been the inspiration for our class topic. Our English lessons, both reading and writing, will be based on our class novel. We will develop our story writing including setting descriptions and using figurative language to add engaging detail as we build up to writing our own narratives. We will also further develop using evidence in our answers to justify our inferences in our reading lessons. We will continue to develop our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills (SPaG) and will learn about subordinating conjunctions (in subordinate clauses). We will continue to revise areas that we need to develop in—such as the use of the comma for fronted adverbials. **Please encourage your child to read their school reading book at least 5 times a week as well as a lengthy novel at home as this will improve their reading stamina and enjoyment for reading. Continue talking to your child about what they read. Using assessment focus (AF) questions at home is a great way to support your child.**



Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will continue with our learning about fractions, decimals and the formal methods for multiplication and division. The children will continuously revisit their prior learning of multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers to keep this knowledge bubbling as well. Year 5 will develop their knowledge of fractions by practising how to represent fractions and what their relationship is to decimals. We will work on equivalent fractions and how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and the other way around. Our ongoing focus will be the application of skills in reasoning and problem solving contexts. We will be working on KIRFs to ensure that mental maths calculations can be recalled quickly—this is an essential skill that will help your child across the whole maths curriculum. **To support your child at home, please ensure your child continues to practise their times tables up to 12x12 (including division facts).** We will also work on remembering prime numbers, square numbers and being able to recall the first few of these examples.



Science

This half term, we will continue with our topic of materials where we will group everyday materials on the basis of their properties and will apply our Maths skills to do so using Venn diagrams and classification keys. The children will then explore reversible changes and will describe how to recover a substance from a solution, e.g. salt water. Finally, we will explore irreversible changes in Science and consider why these changes are irreversible, such as toasting bread, frying an egg and a more exciting investigation involving bicarbonate of soda and vinegar!



Art

Last term, Year 5 really enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greeks and next half term they will study the Maya Civilisation. The children already know that pottery was important in ancient time periods and that they are used by archaeologists to infer information about the past. Therefore, this is going to be our inspiration and stimulus. Year 5 will be able to plan their own vase or pot that they will make. Before creating their artwork, Year 5 will have the opportunity to develop and practise their skills of using clay.



Computing

In Computing, we will continue to focus on online safety themed lessons at the start of our learning journey. We will also learn about how we can create iMovie videos and how to add the pictures and transitions. The children will be filming and creating interviews to match their choice of topic. To make sure their communication looks high quality and professional, they will be editing before saving the finished video.



MFL

In MFL, we will develop our listening skills through listening to spoken language in French and show understanding by joining in and responding. We will learn new vocabulary about different clothes and we will work on creating a glossary after we read a story with French phrases. The children will then write phrases from memory and adapt these to create new sentences and a conversation in French.



Music

This half term, Year 5 will continue to learn how to play the ukulele. They will carry on learning the ways to use their chording and strumming hands as they play. The children have their music lessons every Friday morning where they focus on developing their skills by engaging with music through their instrument, enhancing control by playing the strings, working with rhythm and working cooperatively.



PE

Year 5 will continue to develop their skills and ability in swimming, including their understanding and awareness of water safety. They will continue to develop their breathing using a range of strokes. In PE lessons, they will continue to develop their sportsmanship skills—encouraging and supporting their peers in lessons, including their coaching skills. In PE lessons, Year 5 will develop their skills in dance and gymnastics.



PSHE

In PSHE, we will consider what the words 'stereotype' and 'discrimination' mean. We will also revisit our British Value: the Rule of Law. As always, PSHE lessons are responsive to the children's needs and we will continue our emotional literacy check ins at the beginning of the day and after lunch time—this is well embedded in Year 5 and reinforces the ethos of a safe and welcoming classroom where all voices are heard.



Topic: 'Exploring the Americas'

This half term, our topic begins with a focus of 'Explorers' linked to our class novel and linked to exploring the Americas (North and South America). We have a full term of exploring—this half term will have a focus on Geography. We will begin with naming and locating the countries of both continents whilst embedding our map skills through the use of atlases. We will also explore the human and physical features and will develop a deep understanding of locations in North and South America.



Homework

In response to parent feedback, some homework will be paper based rather than online:

- Mathletics / Times Tables Rock Stars / Spelling Shed / Reading Eggspress
- Reading 5 times per week for 15-20 minutes minimum but longer is preferable to build reading stamina. Children should use their reading jotters to record reading challenges completed.
- Research projects available on the Y5 website.

Our School Homework policy is available on the school website.

Ways to Help Your Child

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe that strong school-parent links are an essential part of ensuring our pupils achieve their potential. We really appreciate the support you give your children at home in order to help them with their learning.

Your child must **read their school reading book 5x a week for at least 15-20 minutes** at a time. Please ensure that your child is **reading aloud** as well as other times **independently** as this helps their understanding and comprehension of what they are reading. It is also beneficial for your child to **hear an adult reading aloud to them**. This is proven to support children with reading fluency and enjoyment for reading too.

The children's mathematics KIRF target is to continue to work on their quick recall of all **multiplication tables up to 12x12 with their corresponding division facts**. These facts are important to continuously support them in other areas of their maths learning so please ensure to practise these regularly. Children should also know **what prime and square numbers** are.

As your child is now in Year 5, an increased independence is encouraged in school so we ask that your child begins to complete their homework diary with some independence each week before being signed by a parent/carer.