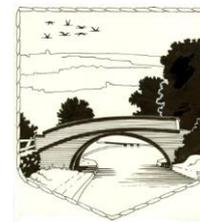


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Year 5 Curriculum Areas (Autumn 2020)

September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the start of a new school year. It is wonderful to have all the children back in school after so long and it was brilliant to see so many smiling faces - they certainly seem pleased to be back! The Autumn term gets off to an exciting start with our Elizabethan topic, providing opportunity to study a breadth of different interests, all which featured within Elizabethan times.

English

We will begin the term reading **Who Let the Gods Out** by Max Evans. We will predominantly be focussing on it during our Whole Class Guided Reading lessons on Monday and Tuesday, however as it provides a wealth of opportunity for both fiction and non-fiction writing, we will also be using it for developing our literary skills such as spelling, grammar and punctuation. Further reading and writing opportunities will come from texts and stimuli linked to our Elizabethan topics and in science and RE. Children will be developing their fluency and confidence in writing across a range of genres and for different audiences, adapting language accordingly. We will focus on becoming increasingly independent with our writing and therefore children will be encouraged to use Purple Polish Pens after they have finished their Friday Writing to edit and improve their vocabulary and ensure that spelling and punctuation is accurate. Children will have the opportunity to read with either myself or Mrs Monk during Wednesday and Thursday's Guided Reading lessons.

Maths

The term will begin with a 'strong' emphasis on place value and the decimal system in general. A good understanding of this will support us as we move on to the four number operations including mental and written calculations. Once mastered, we will then attempt to master addition and subtraction, some relevant statistics, further our knowledge of multiplication and division, and finish with perimeter and area. Further in-depth information about the areas covered is available on the school's website. Much of the Year 5 curriculum presumes a solid and fluent grasp of 'times tables' to x12. Although we will practise these at school with a focus on associated facts, regular practice at home will really support the work we do in school and help your child develop fluency and confidence across many different maths areas. All children have a TTRockstars website log in which they are welcome to use at home to really master those timetables.

Homework

Homework will soon be available via Google Classroom, look out for further information on this coming soon. Should your family need to self-isolate due to Covid-19, there will also be activities on the school website to support home learning on the first day of absence. For all following days of absence, home learning will be provided to you via email or Google Classroom. This will be for Covid related absence only. All homework, excluding Science, is set on a Friday and is to be returned by the following Wednesday. Children will be set English, Maths and Spellings. Either a Topic, RE or Science homework is also set each week - at times, these may be incorporated within their English homework. Children will receive a half termly spelling sheet which is broken down into weekly word lists. To begin with, we will be recapping previously taught spellings to ensure fluency but will then move on to the next stage. Children will be tested on their weekly spelling list on a Friday. Please encourage children to learn their spellings, noticing use of spelling patterns and root words.

Please encourage children to read regularly and widely. Reading or listening to audiobooks regularly has a great impact on children's writing. Discussion about what children are reading or listening to is incredibly useful in developing their comprehension and inference skills.

| Subject | Information | How You Can Help |
|--|---|--|
| Science (taught by Mrs Coombe) | We begin by looking at Earth and Space and understanding the relationship between the Sun , the planets and more particularly Earth and the Moon . After half term, we will be moving onto Physics as children will be investigating the forces , from gravity to drag forces (air and water resistance as well as friction). Finally, we will look at how mechanical devices like levers , pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect. Science homework will be set every 3 weeks on a Tuesday for the following Tuesday (rota with Topic and RE) | Talking to your children about what has been learnt and relating it to the living world experienced on a daily basis. Look at the sky with your child, on clear nights, to observe the moon and the stars. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| RE | Our first unit looks at how Christians view God , how these ideas are supported by the Bible and how Christians try to put these beliefs into practice to make the world a better place. We will then explore the significance of incarnation . Children will have opportunities to reflect upon how people's lives are shaped by their beliefs and to think about their own values and beliefs. | You can support your child at home by discussing what they have learnt in school and reflecting with them on their thoughts and feelings. |
| Geography / History | Our Elizabethan topic has a predominantly historical focus, allowing us to look back in time at Elizabethan England from a variety of perspectives. We will also incorporate elements of Geography within our Topic by learning about the Elizabethan explorer Sir Francis Drake and the events of the Spanish Armada. We will reflect and analyse the impact that Queen Elizabeth I had on our world today. | There should be ample opportunity for your children to talk about the topic and connect it to their own or your experiences or knowledge of the world and history. |
| In accordance with St Lawrence homework policy in Upper Key Stage 2, every week, one Science or R.E. or Topic homework will be set (only one homework from one of these 3 subjects per week, on a rota, approximately every three weeks) and should be returned the following week. Where a 'project' is set, sufficient time and guidance will be given at the time. | | |
| Computing (taught by Mr Delaney) | I will work with children this term using 'Scratch' to create and debug codes. We will use computing skills across the curriculum, including to research and present findings in different ways. Online Safety will permeate our computer use with a particular focus on knowing which internet resources and downloads can be used safely. | Discussions surrounding online safety will reinforce the messages children receive at school. Children can access Scratch via the internet to practise their programming (scratch.mit.edu). Please note that the tool is available to use without creating a 'login' and we would advise that children should not be registering for the site. |
| PE | For the Autumn term, PE will be on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. For the first half term, Children will be revisiting and developing their racquet skills from last year through both Tennis and Badminton . In addition, children will be developing invasion game skills through Football . After half term we will be developing our sport specific skills in Netball and Hockey . We are considering Swimming arrangements, as this would usually be timetabled for Y5 this term, however this is to be confirmed. | Please make sure your child has their named PE kit in school on these days and for any clubs they participate in. Children may wish to bring joggers/tracksuit bottoms and a separate PE jumper/jacket for the colder months. A plastic bag is also often useful for wet/muddy shoes and clothes. |
| Art/DT | Art will be related to our topic and English work. Initially, we will be looking at drawing portraits using a range of mediums . We will look at famous artists and their pieces from the Elizabethan era. Closer to Christmas, we will contribute to winter artwork for the transformation of the hall. | An oversized shirt or T-shirt is a good idea to protect school uniforms during our messier lessons. These can be stored at school until needed. |
| Music | We will be experiencing and having the opportunity to engage with music from around the world through song and dance. Children will get the chance to compose and perform their own music for varying styles. | Giving opportunities for children to listen to a range of music and to sing and move to music will help build a sense of rhythm and pitch as well as hopefully develop a love of music. |
| PSHE | At the start of the year, we focus on exploring issues related to new beginnings , school rules and the rules that we have in our society and why they are important. After half term we will have a focus on Going for Goals , The idea of resilience will form a key aspect of all of our lessons and subjects this year. | You might talk with children about their day and any challenges and successes they have had and how these are handled. |
| French | Children will be developing new vocabulary and using these French words and expressions in conversations (speaking and listening). | If you can speak French, practising at home with your child is great. If you cannot speak French, see if they can teach you some words or phrases! |

As you can see, it looks set to be a packed and exciting term both inside and outside the classroom. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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