



Year 5 Curriculum Areas (Summer 2021)

April 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the start of a new term – one which I hope sustains a sense of normality for the children and us all! The Summer term gets off to an exciting start with our Science week and then we will be spending the rest of the term embracing all things Anglo-Saxon (our Topic for this term),

English

We will begin the term reading **Beowulf** by Michael Morpurgo. We will predominantly be focussing on our class book during our Whole Class Guided Reading lessons on Monday and Tuesday however, as it is so closely linked to our Topic, we will also be using it as a foundation to much of our writing and wider subjects. Children will get a chance to explore alternative versions of Beowulf and compare these with one another. Whilst writing for a range of different audiences and purposes, we will focus on ensuring a wide range of sentence structures are used and that we enhance the breadth of language chosen. In addition to Monday and Tuesday's Whole Class Guided Reading, children will have the opportunity to read with either myself or Mrs Monk during Wednesday and Thursday's lessons.

Please encourage children to read regularly and widely. Reading has a huge impact on children's writing and so please do encourage reading at home and discussion of these texts. Audiobooks are also a great tool to support children's creativity and language acquisition – they are also easy to listen to during a meal, car journey or before bed! Discussion about what children are reading or listening to is incredibly useful in developing their comprehension and inference skills.

Maths

Due to the impact of Home Learning, as a school we are approaching Maths with a priority on the core skills required for progression into the next year. Therefore, our main focus will be on ensuring children are secure with their place value knowledge, particularly decimals, and fractions. We will continue to maintain fluency of the four methods of calculation, mental arithmetic and times tables whilst also finding time to look at some geometry! Practising these skills at home, particularly mental arithmetic and timetables, is extremely beneficial for children and so please do utilise real world maths such as cooking, shopping or DIY to embed these concepts.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set via Google Classroom. Should your family need to self-isolate due to Covid-19, there will also be activities on the school website (and in the home learning section of Google Classroom) to support home learning on the first day of absence. For all following days of absence, home learning will continue to be provided to you via Google Classroom. This is 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 have received a termly spelling sheet which is broken down into their weekly word lists. This has been posted to their Google Classroom in the Spellings section. There is a Spelling Menu included which has a range of activities to help children practise. 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.

Subject	Information	How You Can Help
Science (taught by Mrs Coombe)	The summer term is dedicated to biology with a focus on the life cycle of living things . Children will find out about the differences in the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects, birds and reptiles. We will relate this to habitats and compare life cycles of plants and animals in different parts of the world. They will then find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals including humans . They will reflect in particular on the changes experienced in puberty .	We are going to observe the metamorphosis of caterpillars in class with our mini butterfly farm. If you have a pond, I would be grateful if we could get a couple of tadpoles (as small as possible) in order to look at their life cycle too in class (we have an empty fish tank ready!) We will be planting sunflowers in class and any planting at home would also be helpful for children to revisit the life cycle of different plants. Finally, this term children will be made aware of sexual reproduction in animals including humans. Reproduction and puberty are taught from a science perspective with sensitivity. I leave it up to you to decide whether you want to start preparing your child and discuss the topic with them in advance.

RE	For the first half term, children will learn from different religious and spiritual ways of life about teaching about hard times with the underlying question, What do religions say to us when life gets hard? After half term, we will be talking about People of God. The Old Testament tells the story of God's plan to reverse the impact of the Fall, to save humanity. We will learn how it involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God.	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 Anglo Saxon topic has a strong historical emphasis however also allows for great opportunities to enhance our knowledge of places around the world, the movement of communities and how the world we know today has been influenced. We will enjoy delving into the past with our exploration of the deepest darkest past and changes that took place between Anglo Saxon and Viking life.	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)	We have already started an exciting project involving a BBC micro:bit : a pocket-sized, codable computer that allows us to get creative. We have already made an interactive badge, and have started to make a frustration game (i.e. guiding a wand along a course without making contact). Other future projects will include using the micro:bit to read the future, make a timer, finding compatibility with friends and a game to see who has the fastest reactions. Near the end of term, we aim to become Digital Image Creators . We will gain an understanding of how digital images are made up, addressing pixels, resolution and depth. We will then move on to gain an understanding of some key tools in image editing.	Discussions surrounding online safety will reinforce the messages children receive at school. It is also helpful for children to access Scratch 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. Moreover, https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/codeclub is an excellent resource for additional home-learning.
PE	<u>For the Summer term, PE will be on a Thursday and Friday afternoon.</u> For the first half term, children will be learning Volleyball skills and gradually combining these in match situations. After half term, we will be revisiting and developing striking and fielding skills in Cricket and Rounders. On a Friday, the children's PE will be led by Coventry Rugby for the entire term in which they will advance their invasion and rugby specific skills. .	Please make sure your child has their named PE kit in school on these days and for any clubs they participate in. A plastic bag is also often useful for wet/muddy shoes and clothes.
Art/D&T	Art will be related to our topic and English work. We will be looking at using methods of shading for perspective . We will look at Anglo-Saxon patterns and develop mask work related to our writing. We will also be applying our perspective skills to explore landscape artwork based on our writing and our experiences during our class trips.	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 with an emphasis on creating drama to tell a story through music. We will also link music with science as children will discover more about sounds and understand how sounds are made and heard (vibrations and role of ear) , how we can vary the pitch and volume of a sound.	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	This half term children will be engaging with a range of important content related to Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). More information will be released shortly along with the opportunity to view the resources which are to be used. After half term, we will be exploring local governance and democracy.	You might talk with children about their day and any challenges and successes they have had and how to best approach challenging social and academic situations.
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 with activity days and a trip to add to the above. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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