Class Newsletter

Year 5

Welcome back pupils and families! We hope you have had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for another exciting year at St Mary's. Year 5 is a fantastic year, full of new challenges, opportunities and experiences as the children continue to grow in confidence, independence and maturity. We are looking forward to working closely with you to ensure that every child has a happy, successful and memorable year, filled with opportunities to learn, achieve and FLOURISH.

Miss McManus and Mrs Parker

Homework

Children will be given homework weekly. This will include:

- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly maths (set on MyMaths programme)
- Grammar or Reading homework (set on SPaG.com programme and Reading Plus) set on alternate weeks.

Login details for these programmes will be given out on the first week back. Please contact me if children do not have devices at home to access programmes

Key Information

Children must wear their PE kits on a Tuesday and Wednesday. This consists of a royal blue PE top, black shorts, leggings or joggers, and black trainers. School-branded hoodies are also permitted on these days.

Pupils must not wear jewellery; this will result in pupils being unable to go outside during break or take part in PE.

Curriculum Coverage

RE

Our first topic of this academic year is 'Creation and Covenant'. Within this topic, the children will explore Bible scripture and develop an understanding of the Ten Commandments and how they help humans live good and happy lives.

Literacy

Our class text this term is Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo - a story of a boy called Michael who is stranded on a remote island and forms an unexpected friendship with a mysterious man named Kensuke. Throughout this half term, pupils will use our class text, Kensuke's Kingdom, as inspiration for a range of writing genres, including a ship's log recount, a story from another culture, a visitor guide, and many other engaging pieces of writing.

We will be building upon our already extensive spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG) knowledge daily, which will enable us to write for a range of purposes and audiences.

During Black History Month, the children will be exploring author Jerdine Nolen, an award-winning author, known for writing powerful children's books that often explore African American history, culture, and themes of hope and courage.

Pupils will continue to use ReadingPlus as an additional tool to improve reading skills, alongside dedicated Guided Reading lessons where we will explore the different question types. Spelling will be taught explicitly each day; we are starting a new spelling scheme this year—Emile Spelling—which focuses on the morphology of words and learning patterns and rules to help aid spelling. Handwriting is taught daily, at the beginning of each literacy lesson, and is a core focus for us this year at St Mary's!

Maths

This half term, children will focus on place value, ensuring they are secure in their understanding of numbers up to 1,000,000. They will learn how to read, write, compare and order numbers of increasing value, as well as develop a deep understanding of the value of each digit within a number.
A key focus throughout our maths lessons will be reasoning and problem solving, with an emphasis on oracy. Children will be encouraged to explain their thinking, justify their methods and discuss different approaches to solving problems, helping them to develop confidence and mathematical fluency.
Pupils will complete weekly arithmetic assessments, allowing us to closely monitor progress, identify any gaps in understanding and provide targeted support or intervention where needed.
Our successful Power of 2 programme will continue from 8:30am for those children who attended last year. We have seen exceptional progress from pupils who have participated in this programme and would strongly encourage families to ensure their child attends regularly to maximise the benefits.

Geography

Our topic is called 'Settle Down'. We will learn about different types of settlements and their key physical and human features. We will compare settlements from the past and present using maps, aerial photographs and other sources, and explore how land use has changed over time.

DT

Pupils will make pretzels allowing them to develop their understanding of food groups and healthy eating, while exploring how different ingredients affect the taste and texture of food. They will practise measuring ingredients accurately and learn how recipes can be adapted to meet different needs.

Science

This half term, children will learn about the stages of the human life cycle, including infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. This unit is called 'Animals and Humans.'

MFL

In French, we are excited to have secured a partnership with Sainte Isabelle School in France. Throughout the half term, children will have the opportunity to write to their French pen pals, introducing themselves, sharing information about their lives and learning about the experiences of children in another country.

Personal Development

Our topic this term is "Our Community." Children will take part in the 'Make a difference' challenge where they will identify a problem in the local area and plan solutions to solve it. Alongside this, they will be developing an understanding of our school values: FLOURISH and how to show these values through their actions and attitudes.

Music

Pupils will explore the concept of syncopation during this unit exploring this through the following key themes: Pulse, rhythm, melody, listening and appraising, performing, singing and composition.

Computing

Pupils will explore computing systems and networks.

'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' - Philippians 4:13