

Class 5 Newsletter September 2016

Welcome to Class 5! The children have already made an impressive start to the year, working hard and settling in to routines. This half term our theme is 'Where in the World?' and in Class 5 much of our learning will focus on Africa, and in particular, South Africa. If you have any queries or concerns to discuss, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground at the start or end of the school day or via the school office. If not, I look forward to meeting you at 'Meet the Teacher' evening on 22 September at either 6:45pm or 7:15pm.

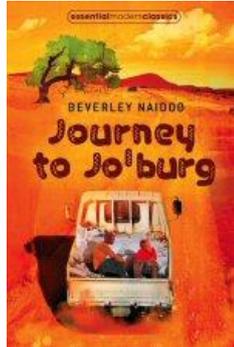


Where in the World?

English

Our work in English will be based around the book 'The Journey to Jo'burg'. The story is set in South Africa in the 1980s and explores the inequality and discrimination present in South Africa at that time.

The text will form the basis for our work in guided reading sessions and inspire our writing through the half term, such as diary entries, narrative writing, and persuasion and discussion texts. Through all these reading and writing activities the children will develop their understanding and use of a range of grammar and punctuation features, such as expanded noun phrases, using modal verbs, and commas, dashes and brackets to add extra information and clarity to sentences.



Maths

In maths we begin the half term by developing our understanding of place value in both whole numbers and decimals, focusing on topics such as rounding numbers and multiplying and dividing by powers of 10. We will then spend time developing a thorough understanding of all four number operations, particularly how to use mental and written methods of calculation and when each one is the most suitable method. We finish the half term comparing and classifying geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and learning how to find unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.

Our **science** work focuses on understanding forces. We will explore the phenomena of gravity and identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction in a variety of real life contexts. We will also learn how gears, levers and pulleys can be used to allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Throughout this work we will also focus on developing our ability to work scientifically.

RE

Our topic title is 'Where in the World?' and we will explore the variety that is to be found in the Christian Church around the world. We started the topic by comparing and contrasting church buildings in Europe and Africa. We will compare the different forms of Christian worship in the UK and around the world, and explore the ways in which major festivals are celebrated in different countries. We finish the topic by finding out about Christians who have inspired their communities and beyond.

In **geography** we will learn about the human and physical geography of different parts of South Africa and compare them to the UK. In particular, they will focus on the different biomes, vegetation belts and climate zones.



Art and Music

In art the children will tour around the world comparing and contrasting the different styles of art work. They will learn how to use the batik process when producing a wall hanging.

Our **music** work follows the theme of journeys. We will learn how to sing in 3 part harmony and learn the difference between major and minor note patterns.

French

The children start the year by recapping on food: their favourite foods, likes and dislikes and how to order food and drinks in a café.

Computing

In computing we will further develop our understanding of computer coding. We have already written the code for a racing game that including sound effects and will move onto how to create and control variables within a range of simulations.

PE is on Monday and Tuesday. On Mondays we develop our tennis skills by learning a variety of tennis strokes and applying them to games situations.

On Tuesdays we are working on our athletics skills in preparation for the cross-country and indoor athletics events which are both held during this half term.

A few reminders and requests:

- Writing homework will be sent home every other Wednesdays to be returned the following Wednesday;
- Reading records and reading books need to come to school every day and go home every day. Reading records will be checked in school on a Friday;
- Spelling tests are each Friday and new spellings are sent home the same day;
- PE kit, including plimsolls, should be in school throughout the half term although the children should have trainers as all PE sessions this half term will be outdoors, weather permitting.

M Smith