

Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all had a very enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Thank you for your support in making the beginning of the school year run so smoothly and calmly. The children have settled in well and are keen and eager to learn!

English

A major element of our English teaching this term will be on developing basic skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar. Dedicated time will be given each day to ensure that these skills are embedded and transferred across all curriculum areas, including homework. Spellings will be allocated on a Monday and children will be tested on these each Friday.

Our writing skills will be developed through a range of fiction and non-fiction stimuli. We will begin by writing non-chronological reports and holiday brochures linked to our geography work on Australia. We will then develop our creative writing skills through reading *Clockwork* by Phillip Pullman. Later in the term, we will produce diary entries and newspaper reports using visual literacy in a study of *Harry Potter*.

As well as reading the class texts, the children are encouraged to borrow a reading book from our library to read for pleasure independently at home or school. Please encourage your child to read for at least 10 minutes every night and make a comment in their homework diary. Parents are also encouraged to comment on their child's reading in this diary.

RE

Throughout the school we follow the RE Scheme 'Come and See'. We begin our year with a topic which is all about 'Ourselves'. We will identify our own unique gifts and qualities that we possess and look at how we can share these amongst others. Our second topic focuses on the Sacrament of Marriage, we explore the idea of showing care and commitment to others. We will also spend some time studying Judaism. Our final topic of the term leads us to the season of Advent.

A copy of the Diocesan parents' leaflet with extra information will be sent home soon.

Maths

In Mathematics, the children will develop and build upon their skills from Y4.

We have begun by consolidating and further developing our knowledge on place value. We will be moving onto improving our mental strategies and standard written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division later this term. We will also begin our work on fractions: we will focus on comparing, ordering and finding equivalent fractions before moving onto adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions.

The children will also continue to learn their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and related division facts. As always children are encouraged to practice their times tables and other skills such as telling the time at home regularly. Pupils may wish to practise their skills using the following web links:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



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Daily Checklist: Water bottles, reading book, homework diary.

Science

We will start our learning this term with our Properties and Changes of Materials topic. We will explore the properties of materials through combining materials to describe what we can see and what happens. We will also investigate how different materials can be successfully separated.

Geography / History

For the first half term we will study a topic of Australia. We will find out about the country itself; its location, geography and important features and landmarks. Later in the term we will look closely into the famous explorer Captain James Cook. We will find out more about his life and key voyages. We will also find out why people were sent to Australia and what happened once they had settled there—as you can tell we have a very busy term ahead!

French

The children will continue to have a weekly French lesson, where they will learn more about the French language and culture.

Homework Diary

Year 5 children have a diary to encourage them to become more independent and responsible for their homework. Within this children should record their given homework and make daily comments from their independent reading. Each week they will ask a parent/other adult to sign their diary to confirm they have read independently. If you would like to make any other comment about their reading or homework, please feel free to do so in the diary. Their diary will be checked each week so that this home/school partnership is developed. Of course, if you would like to discuss anything in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Wilberforce

Art & DT

In art lessons, we will begin by using a range of materials to re-create a range of Australian landmarks. We will also study aboriginal inspired artwork and create our own aboriginal style rain sticks and artwork. Later in the term we will complete a unit of work focusing on the work of the artist Kandinsky.

Music

We are very lucky to have Mr Harbisher from Tees Valley Music to teach us music this term. We will begin by improving our skills when playing the recorder.

PE

Class 5 will have their P.E sessions each **Tuesday morning** with Miss Wilberforce and each **Friday morning** with Mr. Sheahan. Please make sure your child has their P.E kit on these days and that it is clearly labelled with their name.

Computing

The children will start with an exciting unit this term on developing their coding skills. We will create a game and improve our understanding of variables to control objects.

