

St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear parents,

I hope you had a good summer holiday. As we are now beginning a new school term at St. John's, this class newsletter explains what Year 5 will be up to in the months leading up to Christmas. The children are already settling in well and I hope they continue to grow in confidence as they face some of the new challenges that Year 5 presents.

Literacy

During this term, Year 5 have already been looking at various poetical devices used in a range of poetry. Next week, children will begin work on looking at well-known authors, focusing on the works of Charles Dickens. During this unit, children will be expected to eventually write their own stories in the style of this author. Children will build up to this throughout the unit by studying various Dickens titles, and even doing role play where they will explore individual characters in books such as *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*. During the second part of the term, children will focus more on the non-fiction aspect of literacy and look at instruction texts and persuasion. The children will explore language features associated with these sorts of texts and eventually produce their persuasive and instructional pieces of work.

Numeracy

Already this term, the class have been focusing on place value of six digit numbers including decimals, as well as identifying number patterns and multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. The children have also been looking at mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction. The children are already making great progress in this area. Later on in the term children will move onto looking at number facts and properties that certain numbers have in common with each other. This will include the relationship between the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children will also look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and eventually solve problems involving these, before moving onto data handling and looking at different types of graphs that can be used to represent data. After the half term, children will look at measures, particularly equivalent measures and word problems involving these. Before Christmas, we will also begin work on fractions and percentages. It is important that children continue to learn their times tables at home as a good understanding of this will really help the children make a good start on each new area we look at in Maths.

Science

During the first part of this term, Year 5 will be looking at how they can keep healthy; in their diet and through exercise. The children will examine what types of food make up a good balanced diet, and will carry out investigations into different activities that affect our pulse rate. This will involve looking at the basic structure of the heart and its role in the body. After the half term, children will move onto work involving sound, investigating how we hear things and ways in which sound can be insulated and measured.

R.E.

This half term, the children will start to explore the story of Creation and what it means to be the people of God as expressed by St. Paul. We will also spend a week looking at the work of our patron saint, St. John. After half term we will look at prayers, saints and feasts, focusing on some of the miracles performed by Jesus and pilgrimages that people go on. We will then move onto Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

P.E.

In PE this half term, Year 5 will be doing basketball and gymnastics where they will look at travelling and moving in a variety of different ways. After the half term, the children will be doing football and dance. It is important that the children always have the correct PE kit in school and appropriate footwear. Children should not rely on pupils in other classes to supply them with the correct clothing. If any girls wear earrings to school then these must be taken out during PE lessons or covered with tape that is brought from home. This tape will not be supplied at school.

Life as a Victorian Child

As part of our topic work in the first part of this term, Year 5 will be exploring the Victorian period of history, focusing mainly on life as a Victorian child. The children will look at the sorts of jobs poor children carried out during this period compared to the lives that the more upper class would have led. We are lucky enough to have lots of opportunities this half term to do work outside the classroom and experience Victorian life first hand. On **Wednesday 21st September** the children will spend the morning at Portsmouth museum and take part in a Victorian themed activity. To link in with our Literacy work as well, we will be visiting Charles Dickens' house on **Tuesday 27th September**, and the following week on **Monday 3rd October**, we will be going to Manor Farm Country Park to take part in Victorian tasks there. I know the children will benefit greatly from these experiences.

Minding the Pennies

After looking at this area of history, children will move onto the PSHE topic of how to use

money wisely. As this is a very topical area in the news at the moment, it is important that the children learn about spending wisely, and to make this as engaging as possible for the children they will do some work related to the well known BBC programme, The Apprentice.

Performing Arts

The build-up to Christmas is always a busy and exciting time in our school, and this year children will get the opportunity to act, dance and sing in our Christmas production that will take place at the cathedral.

Homework

In Year 5, the children are expected to practise their spellings and times tables every night for tests that will take place on Friday each week. You are required to hear your child read each night, and to sign and comment in their reading diary. In addition to this, your child will be given one piece of literacy and one piece of numeracy homework a week. This will normally be issued on Monday, to be submitted on Friday. Occasionally, there may be a short homework task associated with the topic we are studying.

Class Liturgy

In addition to our whole school times of worship we have a class liturgy once a week. We would also like to invite parents to join us for our class mass on Wednesday 28th September at 9:15 which will be held in the chapel at St. Edmunds' Secondary School.

A Final Word

I hope that you find this information about our upcoming term useful in terms of helping your child achieve their best in all areas of the curriculum throughout the year. Your help and support will be greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or queries about anything, do not hesitate to approach me.

Mr A. Mercer