

Year Five's Half Termly Newsletter
Mrs Alty, Mrs Davis and Miss Murphy

November 2021

Welcome Back! The run up to Christmas has begun...

Welcome back! We do hope that you had an enjoyable half term break.

Thank you to all parents who attended parents' evening. It was wonderful to meet with you all and discuss your children individually. Thank you for your continued support – we really are lucky to have families that are so keen to support their children in their learning. If you couldn't make it to parents evening, please do make an appointment.

We have a busy half term ahead as we fast approach the run up to Christmas. I'm sure it will be a lovely half term as we have our first 'normal' Christmas at St Thomas' in a long time. Please keep your eyes peeled for Christmas events in the main school newsletter; we hope to have some of our usual festivities such as nativities, breakfast with Santa and Christmas Craft.

New Class Teacher

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new teacher at St Thomas. Miss Murphy is an experienced teacher who will be covering Miss Williams' maternity leave. We are sure the children will make Miss Murphy feel very welcome.

We wish Miss Williams the best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter!

Home Learning

Reading, reading and more reading...

At the start of the year, we were so impressed with pupils' dedication to reading. One week, we had 27 children reading five times at home! As is often the case, this success began to trail off towards the end of the half term. Children are frequently reminded about the importance of reading and that it is their responsibility to get their Learning Journal signed. Please could we ask for your support in this, signing your child's Learning Journal whenever they have read.

Some facts and figures about reading:

- Research shows that reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing; aids in building social connections and relationships with others, and is associated with a range of factors that help increase the chances of becoming successful adults.
- Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.
- Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.

Staff listen to all pupils read frequently, but this may not always be done through 1:1 reading sessions. Teachers can listen to pupils reading in a range of lessons from whole class guided reading to history or geography as we read in every lesson.

Accelerated Reader

We have started using a new reading programme called Accelerated Reader. This programme is designed to track a child's reading progress, offering them an opportunity to choose a book that is appropriate for their reading level. The children are all very excited at the prospect of completing quizzes once they have finished reading their book. The children have all been given a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which will replace the coloured book bands. Pupil will choose books from this range which is based not only on their fluency but their comprehension too.

PE

The last swimming session for Year Five will be on Tuesday 23rd November 2021. The pupils will then take part in PE lessons which may be outdoors. Please do ensure that your child has their games kit in school as it can get quite chilly during these winter months!

Trips

There are no trips planned for this half term but we will begin to prepare for our residential to Robinwood with our parent meeting on the 14th December. Please do have a look at their website to find out more information about the centre:

https://www.robinwood.co.uk/activity_centers/cross-lanes/

Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 14th December – Robinwood Parent Meeting

Thursday 16th December – Class Worship

Friday 17th December – Christmas Craft day

Wednesday 22nd December – End of term

Monday 10th January – Robinwood Residential

As usual, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,
Mrs Alty, Miss Murphy and Mrs Davis.

Curriculum Map Year Five

Maths In maths, we will be focussing on the key skills of multiplication and division, including a long multiplication method. We will then be moving on to interpreting graphs and tables.	English In English, we will be reading a beautiful picture book, The Matchbox Diaries, and writing our own autobiographies. Later in the term, we will be smashing stereotypes and reading Hidden Figures and writing powerful character descriptions.	RE In RE, we will be focussing on Christmas where we will spend time looking at the gospels of Matthew and Luke and what we as Christians can take from them.
History In history, we will be learning all about the British Empire and how British control spread through the world. We will also understand why certain victories led to patriotism in Britain.	Geography In geography, we will be learning all about mountains – what they are, their features and mountains across the world. We will also learn about significant mountaineers.	Science In science, we will be learning about living things – how the life cycles of plants, mammals, amphibians, insects and birds differ. We will also study the work of David Attenborough and Jane Goodall.
PE We will be finishing off our swimming focus with some water safety and then moving on to dance lessons.	Computing In computing, we will be creating our own videos by capturing, editing and manipulating. We will investigate the use of devices and software.	MFL In French, we will be developing our cultural understanding of France and will be able to talk about the members of our family.
Art Not applicable for this half term.		PHSE In PHSE, we will learn about the things we can do to help us if we feel lonely and also the skills needed to listen well to people.

Home Learning Menu

History – The British Empire

Apply Your ICT Skills...

In ICT this month you have learned all about how to create your own video. How about you design, create and edit your own video all about The British Empire? You could even do it in the style of a BBC news report!



Monarch Madness

At the start of the unit, we will be looking at key monarchs who ruled in Britain between the 1400s – 1700s. Can you create a fact file for one of the monarchs?

Could you create a timeline of monarchs to go alongside your fact file?



Work like West!

You will learn about the famous battle of Plassey in one of your history lessons. Can you create a piece of artwork that depicts the battle of Plassey? You could do it in the style of Benjamin West who created a famous piece of artwork depicting the battle of Quebec.



British Empire Bake Off

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/waynepetre/british-empire/>

Check out these recipes which were popular during the British Empire. Choose one to prepare with an adult. Write up the recipe and add photos of your culinary skills to Seesaw.



Flag Finder

We noticed that when countries were part of the British Empire, they had different flags to today. Can you list the countries which have changed their flag since the British Empire?

Draw the current and previous flags. When did each country gain independence?

