

Reading

Please ensure your child reads at least three times a week and records it in their reading diary. We have a very generously stocked class library available for all Year Five pupils, as well as suggesting that all children have a library membership to Staffordshire Libraries. Accelerated Reader recommends that children should read for 30 minutes per day for maximum progress.

We welcome any donations of reading books that you no longer require at home.

Homework and Spellings

Each week your child should complete the following homework which is due by Wednesday morning.

Weekly homework project - 20-30 minutes on average
Times Table RockStars - a minimum of 10 minutes practice
Reading - at least 3 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes each
Spellings - practice until confident

If children are struggling to complete their homework they will be able to attend a homework club which allows them to focus on their work on a Wednesday lunchtime.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the office and make an appointment to see me, or email me at

Year5-KS2@StJohnsKidsgrove.org.uk

Yours sincerely
Mr Wiggs



Earth and Space



Year Five
Spring Term 2024

Catholic Virtues

This half term our focus Catholic Virtues are compassionate and loving. We learn that our words and actions towards others demonstrate our inner selves, and that being compassionate and caring for our neighbours, both near and far, brings us closer to our God. We are loving in the way we interact with other people, not merely treating them the way we wish to be treated, but better. We aim to always be helpful, kind and truthful to ourselves, to our peers, to our family, and to express our love as an extension of our faith and our God. We will open our eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence in their lives, and we will open our arms and our hearts to them.

Jesus said, "And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35"

Religious Education

In RE this half term, children will be exploring the Christmas story, relating to concepts appropriate to their age and understanding, such as the jealousy of King Herod, and the arduous journey that Mary and Joseph undertook in their escape to Egypt to keep Christ safe. At the end of January we will examine the Sacrament of Baptism, and also read and evaluate the parables and sayings of Jesus, as his word teach us the message of God's presence today. The children will have the opportunity to lead times of daily collective worship and weekly class based liturgy.

English

Our focus this half term is to understand how engagement within literature is influenced by formatting and illustrations, and how non-fiction books are important for advancing our own learning. We will then read and write our own biographies based on historically significant figures throughout the twentieth century. To conclude this half term we will take our first dip into a Shakespearean story, which will include reading and speaking some 17th Century authentic language from the source script, as well as discovering a number of modern adaptations.

Our class target this term is to improve and maintain neat handwriting, using consistently legible script in our writing and using correct cursive technique. In Year Five we utilise the Pen Licence scheme to reward children for reaching a suitably high standard of handwriting, legibility, and use of continuous cursive, and we would be very proud to see more pupils achieve this target.

Maths

This half term we will be improving our knowledge of multiplication and division of increasingly larger numbers. We will then explore fractions and decimals in greater detail and increasing our confidence when performing calculation involving these numbers. We will also spend some time understanding logical reasoning problems, calculations written in word form, which can sometimes be a challenge.

Science

This half term we will be exploring the exciting topic of Earth and Space, learning about the planets in our solar system, and discovering how celestial movement causes changes on Earth, such as day and night, seasonal weather patterns, and the phases of the moon. I highly recommend you spend some time outside with your children, now that the evenings are darker earlier, enjoying and learning about the wonders of the constellations that are visible to us, as well as observing the changing phases of the moon throughout the month.

P.E. (P.E. lessons this term will take place on Monday and Tuesday)

This half-term, we will be developing our co-ordination co-operation skills, as well as devising our own choreographed gymnastic routine that will demonstrate control, flexibility and balance. The children will also be tasked with providing coaching and critique for their peers, working to understand how the 'social' aspect of physical education directly influences the 'active' strands.

We will also be welcoming Miss Georgina back to work with us this year, teaching us how to use the physicality of movement and rhythm to create a dance routine that is linked to our subject topic.

Please ensure your child has correct PE uniform for their lessons (navy blue t-shirt or polo shirt, navy shorts or jogging bottoms, sports trainers).

Geography

This half term the children will be focusing on the concepts of urban growth and population increase, by examining some of the numerous megacities around the globe, comparing and contrasting their infrastructure and history, as well as questioning how and why some cities have become centres of commerce and industry. As part of these lessons, we will be learning about the increasing global population, natural resource management, and the benefits and drawbacks of urban landscape and city infrastructure.

Design Technology

During this half term we will be integrating our DT lessons with our science lessons: we will attempt to launch a homemade rocket using liquid propulsion. For some of these lessons we will be asking children to collect clean recyclable materials from home, such as cardboard boxes and hard-plastic containers which can be used for their construction, and understanding the physical properties of different materials.