

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



The world around us



Class: Year Five
Spring Term 2024

Catholic Virtues

This half term our Catholic Virtues are Faith-filled and Hopeful. Our pupils understand and continue the traditions and teachings of Jesus in their lives, maintaining a faithful attitude to themselves and others. They are encouraged to explore their faith, and ask questions that further their knowledge, understanding that they have a place in a better future. Our pupils are hopeful and optimistic, they have resilience and endurance in order to ensure positive outcomes for themselves and the world around them. We buoy our friends and family during periods of sadness or worry, as we are hopeful for a bright sun on the horizon. **“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” Isaiah 41:10**

Religious Education

In RE this half term, children will be learning about the way that Jesus taught the world to appreciate the Kingdom of God through his parables and teachings. We will delve into the meaning behind some common parables, as well as recognising how these are as relevant to the modern world as they were two thousand years ago. We will also be learning about the liturgical period of Lent, and how we can recognise the importance of the three pillars of penitence: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This will eventually lead us towards Holy Week at the end of the term, as we prepare for Easter. During this period we will also be celebrating Lent with child-led prayer sessions, giving us the chance to lead the school in worship together.

English

Our focus this half term is to improve our grammar and punctuation through writing with a variety of sentence styles, and ensuring we have appropriate word choices in our work.

We will be reading our second story by *William Shakespeare*, and using this text to compose a script, understand character motivations, and the conflict between people.

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 suitable standard of handwriting, legibility, and use of continuous cursive. We would be very proud to see more pupils achieve this target.

Maths

This half term we will be improving our knowledge of decimal numbers, and how they relate to fractions and also percentages.

Science

This half term we will be learning about various forces that act upon the physical world, and how we can observe and measure these forces. We will learn about Isaac Newton and his “discovery” of gravity, as well as the concepts of push/pull and drag/momentum. We will perform a variety of experiments to investigate air resistance, water resistance, and surface friction. We will also undertake a demonstration of how simple mechanical devices provide advantage to force, such as pulleys, levers, and gears.

P.E. (Lessons take place on Mondays and Wednesdays)

This half-term Year 5 will be developing their strategic thinking through Health Related Exercise (HRE) and Cricket. This will help us to improve our communication and group tactical play. We will expand on the core skills we were building last term, including throwing, catching, movement, and anticipating the direction of play. Through HRE we will learn about different types of exercise, the effects of regular exercise on the physical body as well as the mental benefits of leading a health active lifestyle.

Please ensure children have the correct P.E. for both indoor and outdoor lessons throughout this half term. Children should not wear their standard school uniform for P.E. Lessons. Footwear must be trainers or plimsols; school shoes are not appropriate for physical activity lessons.

Art and Design

During this half term we will be expanding our previous art topic, cityscapes, into a relaxing and intriguing look at how artists saw the world around us. By looking at a variety of landscape artists and their techniques, we will develop and improve our own skills. Our focus artist this half-term is Georgia O’Keeffe, whose landscape representations of New Mexico help us to learn about positioning and colour theory, as well as the base elements of tone and line.

History

This half term the children will be exploring the ancient Maya civilisation in Mesoamerica, a civilisation that existed for over two thousand years, yet has kept many secrets hidden within the confines of the dense rainforest, and remain to be discovered. We will examine what is currently known about their culture, society, writing and numeracy systems, and religious beliefs, and learn about how our understanding of historical knowledge is based on primary and secondary sources, and how to differentiate between these two evidences.