

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
ReadingWise - 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 2022

Values and Virtues

This term our values and virtues are Curious and Active. Children will become independent in their learning, responsible for ensuring they are ready and prepared for their lessons and their day, as befits their maturing minds and bodies. We celebrate the curious mind, and welcome questions that make us consider what we know about the world around us, and where that knowledge comes from, questioning established schemata and pondering "I wonder..." statements. We use metacognition to embrace our learning, considering why things are the way they are, and how we can actively learn from them. Furthermore, we are active in our roles as members of the school community and our wider world, and we choose to take action to better the world around us.

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 Mary and Joseph undertook. 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 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 suitable 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 decimal numbers and fractions, as well as deepening our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes and calculating area. We will also ensure that our learning about addition and subtraction operations are secure, and we are confident with the formal written methods of short division and short multiplication, prior to commencing any further learning about long multiplication or long division.

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. To compliment this topic we hope to arrange a class trip to the National Space Centre before the end of this half term.

P.E.

PE lessons this term take place on Mondays and Wednesdays.

This half-term, Year 5 will be developing their coordination and communication skills, as well as devising their own choreographed gymnastic routine that demonstrate control, flexibility and balance. 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 continuing our work on improving teamwork in small team games when the weather permits us to work outside. Please ensure children have the correct P.E. for both indoor and outdoor lessons throughout this half term. Children may not wear their standard school uniform for P.E. Lessons. Footwear must be trainers or plimsoles, school shoes are not appropriate for physical activity lessons. For gymnastics lessons, children will be barefoot, as this allows for the greatest range of movement and flexibility, as well as providing natural grip during balances.

Design Technology

During this half term we will be integrating our DT lessons with our history and science lessons: we will attempt to launch a homemade rocket using liquid propulsion; we will create a model of the solar system; and we will design, construct and decorate our own Mayan mask using images of authentic artefacts from Central American archaeological sites. 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.

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 rainforest, still yet to be discovered. We will examine what is currently known about their culture, society, writing and numeracy systems, and religious beliefs.