

Class 5 Term 4 Newsletter

Friday 24th February 2017

Dear families

We have a very busy and exciting half term, leading us up to Easter, with lots of opportunities for hands-on and outside learning which will involve many new learning experiences. Classroom routines are now well-established and exemplary behaviour is displayed in class by all the children, who are becoming more and more independent, taking on more responsibilities and getting ready for their final year at Bliss.

Topic: history-based, focusing on the Ancient Greeks, the children will create booklets about life in Ancient Greece, using their increasing knowledge and understanding. Furthermore, the Ancient Greeks at war will be studied, focusing on the battle of Marathon and understanding how different people can see the same event from different perspectives, culminating with creating their own presentations about the Greek Gods.

Science: the children will be investigating and measuring forces, predicting and hypothesising, and recording their results by drawing up tables. Friction, gravity, fair-testing, water-resistance and air-resistance will be investigated as well as learning to recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

English: an older literature book study about Macbeth has begun. The children will be creating story maps and character studies and webs, reading and performing Shakespeare, and learning to adapt to the Old English language. Various dramatic strategies and conventions will be used to explore themes such as hopes, fears and desires, build empathy and enhance their writing. The children will then experiment with their own poetry and play-script writing. This exciting book study will be further enriched by a trip to the Globe Theatre in London where the children will take part in a Macbeth workshop and enjoy a guided tour of Shakespeare's theatre.

SPaG: sentence of the week will continue which incorporates and consolidates the grammar and punctuation focus each week, as well as learning the Year 5/6 spelling list. Reading and comprehension are a big focus this term; please encourage your children to read regularly and as widely as possible, and to remember to record their efforts in their reading journals.

Maths: the four operations will be revisited to begin the term, moving on to estimating, rounding, solving missing number problems and money problems. After working on two-step word problems and ratio, the children will then revise and build on their fractions, decimals and percentages knowledge. This will include converting mixed number fractions, using improper fractions and adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. Times tables are always a focus and the children are encouraged to learn and be able to apply all 12 times tables, including division problems - they are tested on these weekly.

Hinduism is being taught in **RE** by Mrs Anderson; **music** by Mrs Bristow; and the children are swimming up until Easter. Tag-rugby is the **PE** focus and **French** is delivered on Wednesday mornings. During **computing** the children will be exploring basic computer programming this term and even developing their own games.

Art and DT: a very exciting art and DT project linked to Dr. Seuss and The Lorax will begin on the 6th March. Class 5 will be looking at issues of sustainability and environmental and pollution problems. They will be responding through big art, junk modelling and some very environmentally-friendly gardening, learning how to grow seasonal vegetables in small spaces with recycled objects.

Homework, which always supports and consolidates work covered in class, is as usual. It's given on Friday for return on Wednesday. Please feel free to make an appointment to see me if you have any further questions.

Team 5 are very much looking forward to Term 4!

Kind regards from Mrs Bastin, Mrs Baker and Mrs Anderson.