

Class 5

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Dear families,

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new Year 5 and their families. We have such an exciting and busy year planned with lots of fascinating topics! A key date to put in your diary is Year 5 curriculum meeting next Thursday (14th September) at 3:15pm. Please come along to find out about the structure of your child's day, week and term, and to discover what your child will be learning this year in Class 5. This newsletter provides a brief overview of the term ahead.



Term 1 Topic: *The Great Outdoors*



Our first topic 'The Great Outdoors' will underpin the curriculum this term, beginning with a walk around our local environment, utilizing important mapping, field-work and observational skills, and developing an understanding of both human and physical features of our local landscape.

This local knowledge and understanding will be extended to the United Kingdom, Europe and the world, to include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features.

The great outdoors will then be linked into our science work entitled 'Living Things and their Habitats' in which the children will be encouraged to study and raise questions about their local environment throughout the year, observe and compare life-cycles of a variety of living things, including mammals, amphibians, insects and plants, and investigate the invaluable work of naturalists and animal behaviorists such as David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. The children will be classifying living things into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and creating classification keys of their own. Working scientifically to gather record and classify data using simple scientific language, drawings, diagrams, bar charts and tables, the children will then use these results to draw simple conclusions and suggest improvements and ask new questions.

English work will link across the curriculum to topic work in geography and science where the children will be studying information texts and writing and editing their own reports on animals and biomes of their choice. They will also be developing their research skills to produce a group presentation, using ICT, with a global learning perspective.

During art, work both in and out of the classroom will link history, science, geography and DT by studying our local landscape and creating work in natural materials such as those used by Andy Goldsworthy. We will also draw inspiration from local artist Carry Akroyd.

Moreover, in design and technology, topic work will involve the children working collaboratively to create diorama shoe box models of their chosen biome.

English will begin with looking at issues and dilemmas, based on the text 'Balaclava Boy' by George Layton. The children will examine a character's motivation through the use of dramatic conventions; utilizing hot-seating, character-sculpting, role-on-the-wall and open-ended questioning techniques. The children will learn how to write a diary entry in role as a character, sequence events and edit their work accordingly. Finally, they will plan and write their own stories with issues and dilemmas.

All key areas of the maths curriculum will be revisited, starting with place value and then moving on to formal methods of calculation. The children will practise reading, writing and ordering numbers; they will learn how to identify prime numbers, square numbers and factors; and they will practise solving word problems.

The RE focus this term will be 'Stories of Faith'; what can we learn from the stories shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews? We will be researching Islamic art and creating Islamic tile designs and visiting the local church.

On Tuesdays, the children will be following an exciting interactive music programme which will enhance their musical knowledge and skills.

French will be on Wednesday mornings, beginning with a French food tasting session!

And finally, the children will become game developers through the exciting new Computing curriculum, whilst carefully learning and following e-safety procedures.

Helping your child at home ...

In English, the children will receive a 'Sentence of the Week' which will be tested every Monday. We cannot stress enough the importance of learning these – they will contain key spellings and punctuation marks which the children must know in order to achieve the required standard for Year 5. Encouraging your child to read as much as possible is also vitally important; we will be taking in reading records every Monday and encouraging the children to have read at least 5 times a week at home, with an incentive of a prize at the end of the year!

There will be a times tables test every Friday in maths, focusing firstly on times tables, then division facts. When these have been mastered, the children's wider mental maths skills will be challenged to encourage quick and accurate strategies.

Homework will be given on Friday and it will be due in the following Wednesday, alternating between learning logs and maths and English, as well as key spellings.

Class 5 information ...

In P.E. focus this term the children will focus on football on a Monday and swimming on Friday (swimming will continue up until Christmas). Please ensure your child always has the correct kit in school.

We will be taking learning outside as much as possible so it is important that children have appropriate clothing and footwear in school at all times. I suggest waterproof outers and wellington boots or walking shoes. Obviously as the weather gets colder, hats and gloves and extra socks will be required. These clothes will be getting muddy so please do not send your child's best clothes for this purpose.

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and working with the new Year 5 and their families!

Mrs. Bastin and Mrs. Baker