



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull

Year 5/6 - St Alban's Class

Spring 2020

Welcome to the Spring Term in Years 5 and 6. I am really looking forward to teaching your children and have some exciting things planned for the term. Below sets out the main areas of learning for this Term.

<p>English: In our daily Literacy lessons we will cover the following genres: Narrative - Ice Trap - completing our work on Shackleton Legends - The Willow Pattern Poetry-Performance poetry Argument writing Debating</p> <p>Guided Reading In Guided reading this term, as well as their usual Bug Club guided activities, the Year 6 children will begin preparing for SATS by practising SATS style comprehension activities during our guided reading sessions. The Year 5s will continue to have guided reading sessions using our Bug Club scheme- appropriate to their ability group.</p>	<p>Maths: In our daily maths lessons we will cover the following topics this term Fractions, decimals and percentages Properties of and reasoning about numbers Measures 2D and 3D shapes Geometry - Angles, Perimeter and Area Ratio and Proportion</p> <p>Reasoning and Problem Solving will be carried out through all aspects of Maths. The Year 6 will also begin practising for their SATS by doing some past SATS papers</p>	<p>Science: Properties and Changes of Materials- Comparing and grouping materials- solubility, thermal conductivity, strength, transparency, absorption, electrical conductivity, sound proofing Reversible and Irreversible Changes and formation of new materials - Link to cooking activities</p> <p>Special Effects Materials: mixing and separating, dissolving, new materials, oxidation, burning, solutions, sieving</p>
<p>RE: We will continue to teach RE through the Catholic RE scheme; cover the following topics: Christmas- Epiphany Revelation Judaism/ Buddhism Lent Holy Week</p> <p>Music Learning to read musical notation, varying dynamics and pitch and creating their own simple compositions though playing a recorder or ocarina</p>	<p>IT: We will be learning how to use a programme on Purple Mash called 2Calculate to create 'Spreadsheets'</p> <p>Art and DT: Clay - Making Oracle Bones Pattern work- linked to 'The Willow Pattern and Chinese Art Cooking - Designing a Chinese Menu</p>	<p>PE: Hockey and Gym Football and Boot camp</p>

Peering into the past

Our topic has been launched with an exciting trip in a time machine where the children encountered some interesting characters from the past. Our topic will focus on the Shang Dynasty in Ancient China. Through this history based topic, the children will learn about how this ancient civilisation was discovered, consider some of the causes and consequences of the main events, situations and changes in the Shang dynasty and research this period by analysing a range of primary and secondary sources of information.

The children are already excited about learning how to say some simple words and phrases in Chinese; I've no doubt many of you will have been taught to count to 10 in Chinese and been shown the actions that the children made up themselves to help them remember the words.

Chinese New Year begins on 25th January so we will spend time learning about traditions surrounding their New Year celebrations.

Later in the term we will be using our interviewing skills to pose some questions to some Chinese students from the International School in Sherborne- this will be a fantastic opportunity for us to meet people from a different culture and should prove to be a really valuable learning experience for the children.

We will also learn about Chinese foods and through our first 'Business and Enterprise project this year, set up our very own Chinese 'restaurant' for an enjoyable afternoon which we hope you will be able to support by attending. Details to follow later in the term.

How you can help your child:

Reading: We cannot emphasise enough, how important it is for your child to read at home on a regular basis. There is a noticeable difference in the progress that children make, not only in reading but in other areas as well, when they read at home. This helps them to increase their reading fluency and comprehension which is essential for all areas of learning.

Thank you so much to those of you that have encouraged your child by listening to them and signing their reading records. Many class members have already gained 10 reading rewards, for reading at home at least 4 times a week, and have gained their **Bronze Award!** One or two have nearly achieved their **Silver award!** Very well done!

PE kit:

This term, children will need their PE kits in school on **Mondays and Fridays**

Kit should include a pair of shorts, a t-shirt, and daps/trainers. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that their earrings are removed or taped on these days.

Homework:

Year 5s will continue to complete work linked to their class learning.

In Year 6 the children will begin to bring home SATS books to help prepare them for SATs in the Summer term (further details to be provided at parents evening) In addition to the above, the children should also be reading daily and also have weekly spellings to learn. We have been looked at the different ways that we all learn best and the children should be finding their preferred methods for learning their new spellings. Please discuss with your child which method suits them best.

Homework will be given out on a **Thursday**. Please can you ensure that the children have it back in school by the following **Wednesday**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Maria Higgs