

# Year 5 Autumn Newsletter

A huge welcome back to the start of a new school year. We are very much looking forward to being back together in school and re-establishing our relationships and routines. I hope that this Newsletter will help to explain the plans we have in place to ensure your child can return to school with enthusiasm and confidence.

## Mental Health and Well-being

Whilst we recognise the importance of our academic curriculum and the need for children to be back on track with their learning we also feel that the mental health and well-being of our children is equally important. Our priority in school is to ensure that your child feels safe and secure and is able to express and understand their feelings and emotions. Therefore, our 'recovery curriculum' is based around exploring emotions, making sense of the world and rebuilding confidence to be able to learn and work alongside others again. There will be dedicated time each day to address these issues as we discover how our children can return to very different routines and interactions to their experiences in recent months. We have a range of resources to support us in this. To begin with, we will focus on a recommended book, 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. It gives opportunities to discuss the changes and disruption in the world around us and will help us to support our children re-connect with each other and to re-engage with school life. We will also incorporate other appropriate resources to ensure our children are active and energised within the restrictions of our class bubbles. With a strong emphasis on the emotional wellbeing of our children we then hope that they will be ready to engage confidently with the academic curriculum.

## English

A major element of our English teaching this term will be on focusing on spelling, punctuation and grammar. As well as direct teaching in these areas we will also ensure that these skills are embedded and transferred across all curriculum areas. Spellings will be allocated on a Monday and children will be tested on these on the Friday.

Our reading and writing skills will be developed through a range of resources. Following our work on Oliver Jeffers' book detailed above, our class novel this term will be Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell. We will create a newspaper report, write a persuasive letter and a diary entry based on the story we will be reading as a class text. There will also be opportunities for poetry writing, character and setting descriptions and reflective discussions. Later in the term, there will be a different book focus.

As well as reading our class texts, the children are encouraged to borrow a library book from school which must stay at home until ready to return on a Friday where it can be quarantined over the weekend. Please encourage your child to read for at least 10 minutes every night and show evidence on Seesaw of this. No other books should be brought into school.

## RE

Throughout school we follow the RE Scheme 'Come and See'. Our first topic is 'Ourselves'. We will identify our own unique gifts and qualities and look at how we can share these amongst others. Our second topic focuses on the Sacrament of Marriage, we explore the idea of showing care and commitment to others. We will also spend some time studying Judaism. Our final topic of the term leads us to the season of Advent.

## Maths

In Mathematics, the children will build upon their skills from Year 4. We will begin by consolidating and developing our knowledge on place value. We will then move onto improving our mental strategies and standard written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division later this term. Once confident we will apply our knowledge to challenging problem solving and reasoning style questions. Later this term we will begin our work on fractions: we will focus on comparing, ordering and finding equivalent fractions before moving onto adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions.

The children will also continue to learn their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and related division facts. As always children are encouraged to practice their times tables and other skills such as telling the time at home regularly. All pupils have been provided with their Times Table Rockstar log in information.



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## Science

We will start our learning this term with our topic on Earth and Space. We will study how the earth and other planets move around the Sun in the Solar System. We will learn about the movement of the moon and understand how day and night occur.

Following half-term, the second Science topic is Forces. Children will learn about the force of gravity, the effects of air resistance and how some mechanisms allow a small force to have a greater effect.

## Geography & History

For the whole of this term we will have a History focus on the Ancient Mayan civilisation. To begin with, we will discover facts about their civilisation, look at similarities and differences between their religion and religions today, find out what they grew and ate and learn about the area in which they lived. It will also offer us writing opportunities and of course, art , craft and DT activities!

## French

We are fortunate to be able to offer our children a French expert and there will be a weekly French lesson, where they will learn more about the French language and culture.

## Computing

The children will start with an exciting unit this term on developing their coding skills. We will create a game and improve our understanding of variables to control objects.

## Music

Tees Valley Music continue to provide expertise in all aspects of music and singing. We are hopeful we can resume Music sessions this term, following the advice from the government around this activity.

## Art & DT

Our 'recovery curriculum' will include art sessions where children are able to express their feelings through different media. These activities help children to relax and reflect and will support our whole school approach to positive mental health and wellbeing. Our study of the Mayans will offer many art and craft opportunities not to mention a focus on chocolate which of course, the Mayans are well known for! We will find out more about traditional Mayan architecture and patterns as well as the work of artist, Frida Khalo.

## PE

As explained in a previous letter, PE will be taught across one full afternoon session. There are many benefits to this which were shared in that original letter (can be viewed in Letters Home on our website <https://stpauls.bhcet.org.uk/>) Class 5's PE afternoon will be Monday. Therefore, children must come to school on a Monday, dressed in their PE kit, appropriate for the weather. Please remember a water bottle.

## Homework

As mentioned earlier, spellings will be allocated weekly. Children should read for at least 10 mins a day and will be allocated a short grammar task and a short maths task linked with the children's lessons. This will be submitted via Seesaw and reviewed back in school. Please only use Seesaw to evidence children's homework and reading.

**Thank you for your support.**

**If you have any questions or worries about your child and would like to discuss these please contact school via the school office email; [office@stpauls.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:office@stpauls.bhcet.org.uk) and I will be in touch.**

*Mrs Peacock,*

*Mrs Taylor and Miss Wood*

