



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a well-deserved break over the recent break. Below is an outline of the learning you can expect your child to be complete over the Spring term.

English

This term the children will begin by carrying out a topic named 'Earthlings'. As part of this unit, they shall be reading a range of texts including Space Boy and Mars Diaries, as well as a range of Space related poems written by Pie Corbett. During this unit the children will have many opportunities to develop their written skills by writing a diary entry, a short narrative and a poem. The children will consider the use of vocabulary, used particularly to provide additional detail. They will also work on identifying characters, settings and events within the story before writing their own piece of narrative text.

During the second half term, the children will carry out the topic Inventors and Inventions, using the stimulus 'The Black Hole'. As part of this topic, they shall be reading a range of texts linked to this topic but focusing particularly on the short story 'The Strap Box Flyer' by Paul Jennings. There will once again be a range of writing opportunities throughout the term and also a focus on the children developing their ability to read aloud using appropriate intonation and expression.

Guided reading sessions will take place each day throughout the term, with every child reading with a teacher, support staff and volunteer throughout the week. The children will have the opportunity to practise reading aloud as well as further develop their comprehension skills and work on their vocabulary, grammar and punctuation skills. The children will work in groups to develop a range of reading skills in these sessions. The children will also have the opportunity to hear a whole class novel read aloud at least three times each week.

Maths

Lessons in Maths will continue to follow the Power Maths scheme. Year 5 will begin by focusing on multiplication and division, using multiplication tables they know to solve problems and calculations including multiplying two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers. They will use a wide range of both mental and formal written methods in order to do this. Next, they will work on a unit adding and subtracting money. After half term the children will focus on fractions and learn how to convert mixed fractions to mixed numbers, learn what equivalent fractions are, interpret number sequences involving fractions, compare and order fractions and learn how to divide fractions by integers. The children will also be learning how to add and subtract fractions that have different denominators, how to multiply fractions together, how to calculate fractions of amounts and learning how to convert fractions to decimals.

Religious Education (RE)

In the first half term, Year 5 will be exploring the key question 'Why do Christians believe that Jesus was a great teacher?' The children will consider what they know about Jesus through their previous studies in RE and discuss the characteristics that they believe make someone a great teacher. They will then read a range of parables and reflect on the key message in each of the parables and also why Jesus was a great teacher in each.

During the second half of the Spring term, as part of a unit of work linked to Easter, we will be answering the question: Why do Christians believe that Easter is a celebration of Victory? In these lessons, Year 5 will explore how each year we mourn Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. They will discuss why this event had to happen and then reflect on why Christians celebrate Easter Sunday, when they celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

Science

This term, the children will begin by learning about 'Properties and the Changes of Materials' We will explore different types of materials and consider why everyday objects are made of the materials that they are. Throughout the term we shall be carrying out a range of scientific experiments. These include some of the following: separating iron filings from sand, separating sugar from water, exploring how much liquid different brands of nappy can hold.

The children will also be spending time planning their experiments, considering the aim of each experiment, predictions, apparatus, method and results. They shall also learn and be encouraged to use scientific vocabulary such as dependent variable, independent variable and controlled variable.

Computing

This term, the children will begin by further developing their Coding skills, building on the knowledge they gained in the previous half term. After half term they will learn how online games are created before putting their skills to the test and creating their own educational game. The children will continue to follow the Purple Mash scheme which is still accessible from home.

PE

Year 5 have PE on a Tuesday and a Wednesday throughout the Spring Term. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their PE kits on each of these days. The PE focus this half term will be on completing a range of gymnastics skills in addition to carrying out a range of teamwork/teambuilding activities. Next half term the children will carry out a dance unit linked to Robin Hood whilst also carrying out swimming too (more details about swimming to follow). The children will also be carrying out Bikeability sessions for two days during this term too.

History

This term the children will be concluding their learning about the plagues in the local area, learning about the impact that plague doctors had at the time. They will then begin learning about the Mayan Civilisation and who the Mayans were. They will learn about where the Maya lived, their everyday lives and general culture. They will also be researching their religious beliefs and comparing them with Christian beliefs. The children will learn about the connection that the Mayans have to hot chocolate, create and taste their own Mayan hot chocolate and undertake some cross curricular writing as they write a recipe detailing how they made the hot chocolate.

Geography

Year 5 will be developing their knowledge and understanding of 'The Americas' this term. They will be mapping the countries of The Americas and their capital cities. In addition to this, they will also be carrying out case studies into areas within The Americas, with a view to extreme climate areas, focusing particularly on Death Valley and the mining town of Rhyolite.

Art

This term the children will focus on textiles, in particular the works of William Morris. They will also consider the works of Laura Oldfield. Using her examples of mixed media and carbon images as inspiration, the children will then create their own images of Blackpool using these skills.

Design and Technology (DT)

Throughout the term the children will be focusing on the cookery aspect of Design and Technology. They shall be exploring different biscuits, considering taste and flavour, exploring the ingredients and nutritious information within a product, designing their own product packaging, before making and evaluating their own biscuits.

French

This term we will begin with the unit 'Going Shopping' in which the children will learn key vocabulary to help them if they were shopping in the supermarket. They will then carry out the unit 'Where in the World' which practises knowledge of countries and cities. This vocabulary should also help them when asking people what they would like to eat and choosing items of food and drink from a French menu.

Music

The children will be taking part in Samba lesson this half term, combining the playing of Djembe Samba drums with the traditional samba dance. These workshops will be taking place in school each Thursday afternoon.

PSHE

We shall be focusing on a range of custom made topics during this term during PSHE. To begin, we shall carry out bespoke sessions on bereavement, dog safety and First Aid before continuing to follow our PSHE scheme Pol Ed and exploring the following questions: What is empathy? How do rules help our community? What can and can't I do on the internet? What is gambling?

Kind regards,

Mr Blackburn and Mr McKay

Spring Term Key Dates

Wildlife Photographer Geography Workshop – Tuesday 13th January

Faith Fortnight – Monday 2nd February – Friday 13rd February

Parents Evening 1 – Monday 9th February

Parents Evening 2 – Thursday 12th February

Break Up for Half Term – 3.15pm Friday 13th February

Return to School – 8.45am Monday 23rd February

Pop Up Swimming Pool – Monday 23rd February – Friday 6th March (more information to follow)

World Book Day – Friday 6th March

Trip to Eco Town – Monday 9th March (Letter with more detail to follow)

Easter Service – Monday 23rd March

Wear Purple Day – Epilepsy Awareness Day – Thursday 26th March

Finish for Easter – Friday 4th April

Throughout the term, Y5 shall also be accessing Samba workshops each Thursday afternoon in school.

Throughout Spring Term 1, Y5 will be accessing a Walk Through the Bible RE workshop run by the BSYG each Wednesday afternoon.