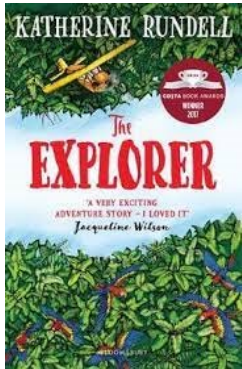


Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Autumn 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you back and hope that you had a good break over the summer holiday. Despite having the same class teacher again (in Year 6's case for the fourth time), there are some exciting changes this year! First of all, we have a new class name - 'Shepherds' - and we have a new (hopefully cooler) classroom. Coming up over the autumn term, we have lots of exciting events going on (including a trip to Cadbury's World) and some fantastic topics to explore.



English - To begin the term, we will be learning all about adventure stories by studying the award-winning book 'The Explorer' by author Katherine Rundell and eventually writing our own adventure themed chapter to add to the book. In our second topic, we will be studying some of the plays of Shakespeare (such as 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'The Tempest') and learning about the structure and features of play scripts before attempting to write our own plays. Finally, we will be exploring poems which celebrate our wonderful planet from the anthology 'Poems from a Green & Blue Planet'. The children will learn about poetic features, language and looking at their effects on the reader. They will also use dictionaries and thesauruses to explore synonyms and antonyms before expressing their ideas and thoughts creatively in their own poetry.

Geography - Our geography focus for the autumn term is 'Our Changing World'. The children will be learning about:

- Weathering and erosion.
- Coastal features (such as bays and headlands).
- The impact of coastal erosion on communities.
- How the boundaries of the U.K. and Europe have changed over time.
- How locations in our towns and cities have changed over time.
- What life may look like in 2050.

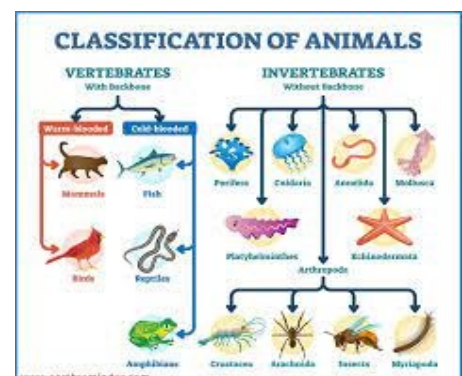


History - Our history topic for this term is 'The Maya Civilisation'. During the topic, the children will be learning about:

- Where and when the Maya civilisation existed.
- Maya religion and gods.
- The Maya number system.
- The exploration and discovery of the Maya civilisation.
- Maya writing.
- Maya food.

Science -The children will be learning about the different characteristics of certain groups of animals and plants and how to use classification keys to identify them in our 'Classifying Organisms' topic, before looking at how we can keep fit and healthy in our topic 'Healthy Bodies'.

P.E. - We will be learning about the skills and tactics involved in the sports of tag rugby and netball.



Computing - The children will be following the 'Purple Mash' Computing scheme. We will be looking at ways to stay safe online in our first unit before moving onto designing, creating and debugging programs in our work on coding. Finally, we will be learning how to organise data and create graphs in our topic about spreadsheets.



RE - Our first topic is 'Loving', which looks at God's love of his Christian family and what 'unconditional love' really is and looks like. This is followed by the topic 'Belonging' and how through Baptism and Confirmation, all Christians are called to share the mission of Jesus. Finally, in 'Expectation' the children will look at how Christians prepare to receive Jesus into their lives and to share this gift with others at Christmas and throughout the year.

Music - Music this term starts with the topic 'Happy'. All the learning in this unit is focused around one song: Happy by Pharrell Williams - a Pop song with a Soul influence about being happy. The children will listen and appraise the song 'Happy' and other songs in different styles about being happy. They will also compose their own piece to support it.

Homework

The homework tasks that the children are expected to complete are as follows:

- Read their school reading book (daily)
- Practise spellings (weekly)
- Times table practise (weekly)
- One Maths/English task (weekly)



Homework will be set on a Thursday and needs to be handed in on Wednesday morning. The completed homework will be marked on this day, with a reward of a house point for handing it in. The children will receive their book back on Thursday morning and will then be expected to stick in their own spellings and any homework sheets they may have. On a Tuesday morning, the children will be tested on their spellings and the current level of the Multiples Marathon that they are on.

P.E.

PE lessons will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has the following kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions:

- A red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- A pair of tracksuit/jogging bottoms
- A hoodie or sweatshirt



We will aim to be outside as much as possible for our P.E. session, so it is important that the children have the items listed above to keep them warm as the weather gets colder. **Please note: in the interests of safety, children with earrings will be expected to remove them.**

Pencil cases in school

The school provides all the equipment that the children require for them to complete their school work, however, children in Shepherd's Class may bring in **one small pencil case** with items from home. However, the children are responsible for these items and if there are things which they do not want to lose, please discourage them from bringing them into school. In cases where items are brought in which distract the children from their learning, these will be confiscated and given back to the children at the end of the day to take home and not bring in again.

If you have any queries or questions, then please feel free to arrange a meeting by contacting the school office.

Kind regards,

Mr J. Causebrook
Years 5/6 Class Teacher
Mathematics & P.E. Coordinator

Useful websites:

Mathematics:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free-downloads>

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2/subjects/maths>

English:

English Grammar: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2/subjects/english-grammar>

Geography:

<https://superbrainybeans.com/geography/coasts/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zttbcmn/articles/z7yc4xs>

History:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw>

<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-americas/maya>