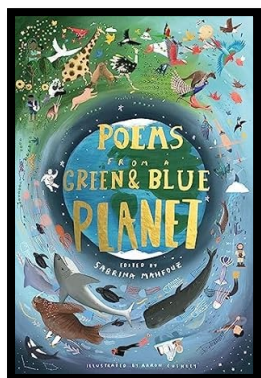


Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Spring Term 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope that you had a good Christmas and restful break over the holiday. Coming up over the spring term, we have lots of exciting events going on and some fantastic topics to explore.



English - To begin the term, we will be finishing off our adventure stories unit and continuing studying the award-winning book 'The Explorer' by author Katherine Rundell. 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 topic for the autumn term is 'Raging Rivers'. The children will be learning about:

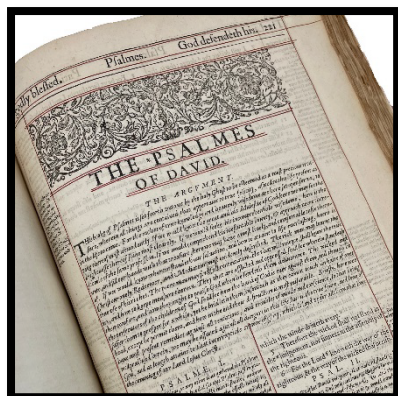
- The water cycle.
- The main U.K. rivers.
- The location of the World's main rivers.
- The features of a river.
- Erosion and deposition features in rivers.
- How humans can use rivers.
- The impact of damming rivers.



Science - The children will be learning about how we can keep fit and healthy in our topic 'Healthy Bodies', before learning about the theory of evolution and the evidence for it and how species adapt and evolve over time in our topic 'Evolution and Inheritance'.

P.E. - We will be learning about the skills and tactics involved in the sports of hockey and basketball. Also, those children still unable to swim 25m confidently will also attend swimming lessons in the second half of the spring term.

Computing - The children will be following the 'Purple Mash' Computing scheme. We will be designing, creating and debugging programs in our work on coding, learning how to organise data and create graphs in our topic about spreadsheets and discovering how to use blogging to share information in our 'Blogging' topic.



RE - Our first topic is 'Sources' and looks at how The Bible is the story, spread over more than two thousand years, of God's love and how God's people responded to that love. Following on from this, in our second topic - 'Unity' - we look at how communion means being in union with Jesus Christ and with one another in a Catholic community. Finally, we look at the Christian belief that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that new life begins in our topic 'Death and New Life'.

Music - Music this term continues 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 compose their own piece of music to accompany it. Our second unit looks as Benjamin Britten's Friday Afternoons: A New Year Carol (a British Folk song originating in Wales). The children will listen to different versions of this song, before performing it with an accompaniment which they will learn on glockenspiels.

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://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1-ks2-rivers/z6qsf4j>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/rivers>

<https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/primary/primary-articles/teaching-rivers-at-ks2-resources-from-the-rivers-trust/>