

Years 5 & 6 Shepherd's Class Autumn 2024

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. I am looking forward to continuing working with the children in Year 6 again this year as well as getting to know the new Year 5 children who have moved up from Carpenter's Class. We have lots of new exciting topics to cover in the autumn term and I have outlined the details below.



English - To begin the term, we will be learning about balanced arguments through studying the topic of 're-wilding'. The children will learn all about the 're-wilding' process and the role of 'key-stone species' before working as a class to develop a balanced argument text on the subject of whether beavers should be re-introduced to new areas of Britain, as has been done in London and Scotland. Through newspapers, documentaries and websites, the children will research the benefits and challenges of the re-introduction of beavers before writing a balanced argument text about the subject. They will then build up to writing their own balanced argument about re-introducing another species back into the wild in Britain.

Our second topic of the term will be based around the powerful and emotional animation 'The Piano'. The children will develop a narrative based on the video, showing an old-man who thinks back on his past experiences whilst playing his piano. Through videos and interviews the children will learn about his experiences of war and loss and use these to generate powerful figurative language and vocabulary to include in their work.

Geography - Our geography focus for the autumn term is 'The Amazing Americas'. In this topic, the children will first find out about the continents of North and South America, and the countries that form them. They will also look in more detail at some of the contrasting regions of the Americas, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations of each area. The children will also develop their map and atlas skills and practise reading and writing coordinates. They will learn about the ancient and new wonders of the world, specifically those of the Americas, and they will research a natural wonder of the Americas and create their own presentations to teach others what they learn.



History - Our history topic for this term is 'World War II'. During this topic, the children will learn when and why World War II began and find out about the key individuals and countries involved. In addition to this, they will discover all about evacuation; learn what it was like to live with food rationing and explore the contribution made by women to the war effort. Furthermore, they will learn important facts about the Holocaust and investigate events that were key turning points in the war, such as the Battle of Britain and the German invasion of the U.S.S.R. The topic will help children to develop their investigation and evaluation skills; learn to organise information chronologically and understand how past events have helped to shape the world we know today.

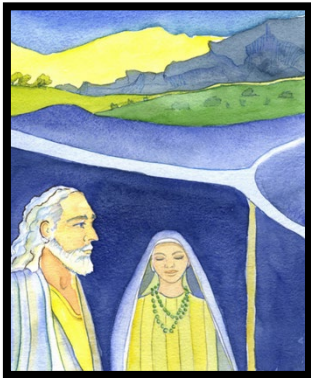
Science -In the autumn term, the children will be studying the topics of 'Forces', 'Space' and 'Global Warming'. In our first topic, the children will be learning about friction, air resistance, water resistance and gravity, as well as planning and completing a parachute investigation and testing water resistance by comparing the movement of different shapes through water. In our second topic - 'Space' - we will be looking at the Solar System, the planets, how we get night and day and discover what the Moon's surface and appearance is like,



as well as modelling the motion of the Earth and planets and discovering how ideas about The Solar System have changed over time. Finally, during our 'Global Warming' topic, the children will gain a simple understanding of global warming and learn what it is and why it is happening, before exploring the impacts of global warming on living things and think of ways to reduce their own (or the school's) carbon footprint.

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. In our 'Coding' unit the children will program a simulation, will learn what decomposition and abstraction are and use functions and incorporate strings, variables and concatenation. In our second unit of 'Online Safety', the children will explore secure passwords and the importance of confidentiality, as well as learning about referencing sources in work and looking at how the Internet can validity of information. During our final unit on spreadsheets, the children will learn to create formulae to model and solve a given problem, including using text variables.



RE - The children in Shepherd's Class will be following the new R.E. scheme of work which will be replacing the old Come and See scheme over the next few years. Our first topic is, 'Creation and Covenant', which looks at: the story of Genesis and how it expresses beliefs about God, the world, and human beings; Catholic beliefs about baptism; Laudato Si and what it takes to be good stewards of planet Earth; famous Catholic Scientists. In our second topic, Prophecy and Promise, the children will learn about: the importance of women in the Old Testament; why Miriam is a 'true protagonist of salvation history'; Mary as the fulfilment of Old Testament Promises; using theological language to describe and explain the belief that Mary became the 'Mother of God'; how and why the Magnificat prayer forms radical expectations of the Messiah; the life of women today who are responding to God's call in their life.

Art - In our 'South American Art' topic, the children will learn about how to make clay monkeys, make picture puzzles using symbols, make dream catchers, draw an important person, create a collage and make traditional drums. They will also have the opportunity to explore the work of South American artists Frida Khalo, Joaquin Torres Garcia, Leonora Carrington, Diego Rivera, Beatriz Milhazes and Carlos Paez Vilaro.



Design and Technology - In our 'Programming Adventures' unit, the children will apply their understanding of computing to program a floor robot. They will explore a range of adventure maps and use these to create original designs. As a group, they will then research how floor robots move along different types of materials and use this knowledge to create obstacle squares. The children will use appropriate joining methods to make a scale adventure map and will test and evaluate the effectiveness of another group's obstacle squares.

Music - Music this term starts with the topic 'Classroom Jazz', where the children will learn all about the characteristics of Jazz music through the songs Bacharach Anorak and Meet The Blues. They will start by listening to, appraising, learning, playing and improvising with Bacharach Anorak, before moving on to listening and appraising the song Meet The Blues and eventually improvising and creating their own tune to play with 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 Tuesday and needs to be handed in on Monday 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 Tuesday 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 Monday 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.**

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/bitesize/articles/z72f3j6>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsw4kty/articles/zp9sydm>

History:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zjnyscw>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zjc8cqt>