

November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Class 5! I hope you have been able to make the most of the half time holiday and that you were able to take advantage of the extra week.

We will still be learning about 'Africa' this half term, however we will be focusing more on the historical importance of the civilisation of Ancient Benin.

Snack and water

I would like to remind you that free fruit is not provided to children in KS2 and due to the current climate we are unable to provide a healthy snack option to the children. If you would like your child to have a snack for breaktime, please send your child with a piece of fruit. Additionally, all children should bring a water bottle (filled with water only please) to school which should be kept in the classroom as we are unable to provide cups for drinks during the day. If your child has a packed lunch, this should be additional to the drink provided for lunchtime.

English

Pupils will be studying different elements of *GPS* (grammar, punctuation and spelling). This will help to raise the level of their writing. The children will be developing their comprehension skills of reading for information during guided reading. They also have access to a wide range of non-fiction books from our class reading corner for quiet reading and independent topic research. Children will develop their use of dictionaries and thesauruses to help extend their vocabulary.

English Fiction

Our key texts this half term are "Akimbo and the Lions" by Alexander McCall Smith which is an exciting story about a boy who lives on a nature reserve in Africa. We will be using this to write our own adventure story about encounters with African animals. We will also be reading a really interesting twisted fairy-tale called key texts are "The Wolf's Story" by Toby Forward and Izhar Cohen. This is an alternative version of Red Riding Hood where things are not quite as they seem! We will be writing our own alternative fairy tale. We will also be writing a persuasive piece which tries to persuade readers that the wolf was innocent in the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

Non-Fiction

Through our History and Geography work we will be learning about key aspects of the Benin civilisation and the importance of this period. We will also be finding out about different animal wildlife linked to our text 'Akimbo and the Lions'. We will research different African wildlife and then use this to write a non-chronological report about the different animals that are native to Africa. Linked to our science unit we will write an explanation text about Forces and Magnets.

Learning Behaviours

Year 3 is an extremely important year for all children who will be required to maintain high standards of work and effort throughout. To encourage our children to continue developing the right attitude towards learning there are systems in place including rewards and sanctions. We always aim to focus on praising the positive behaviour demonstrated. Our dojo system is an effective method of promoting positive behaviour. We will continue to use the traffic light system to encourage 'green behaviour'. Children who display positive behaviour will remain on green. If inappropriate behaviour is shown, a warning is given. If the child does not make the right choice, their name will be moved to amber. Should the child immediately improve his/her behaviour and follow instructions given by an adult, their name is moved back up to green. Any more serious incidents will result in their name being moved straight to red. Any child who stays on green all week will result in a message sent to parents with the good news.

Mathematics

We have carefully considered the Maths curriculum in light of the school closure and have amended our long term plan to allow for extra time to cover missed units and to work on pupils' consolidation of mathematical concepts. This term we will continue to focus on the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be focusing initially on the 2x and 5x tables and then moving onto the 3x, 4x and 8x tables. It would be beneficial if you could spend some time with your child practising times tables facts. There are lots of good websites you can use at home to support your child's learning in this area including 'push the button' which is a fun quick-fire multiplication game. I would recommend ensuring that your child is confident in recalling times tables facts for the 2x, 5x and 10x tables before moving on to any other times tables as these are the ones that are focused on in Year 2. Please remember that your child has a TT Rockstars account which they can access from home to practise their times tables. It is a very fun and engaging website which I know the children enjoy using. Please let me know if your child has forgotten their log-in details and I can provide you with them.

Scientific and technological understanding

This half term we will continue to study 'Forces and Magnets'. This unit of work looks at different forces such as pushes and pulls and friction. We will also be exploring magnetic forces and exploring which materials are magnetic and which materials have the strongest magnetic forces. Additionally we will investigate magnetic poles and how they can attract and repel.

History and Geography

These subjects are all tied into our topic. In History we will be exploring the significance of the Benin civilisation and using our geographical skills to locate Benin. Our focus this half term will be more History based. We will explore Ancient Benin and the importance of this ancient civilisation.

Art and Design

Again linked to our topic, we will be developing our art and design skills. We will be analysing bronze plaques from Ancient Benin and then using these to design and make our own plaque using clay. We will also be exploring the work of Edward Tingatinga and using this artwork to create our own pieces using a similar impressionist style. We will also be exploring different styles of African jewellery and using our design and technology skills to investigate different clasps and ties to design and make our own African style jewellery!

PSHE

PSHE will continue to form a big part of our curriculum this half term. Our Jigsaw topic this half term is 'Celebrating Difference'.

Religious Education

To link with the PSHE Jigsaw programme, we will be following the 'Discovery R.E.' scheme. Each year group will study Christianity and another World Faith throughout the year. Year 3 will study Christianity and our learning challenge is 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning?' We will be investigating the true meaning of Christmas to Christians and comparing this to what Christmas means to non-Christians.

Family Learning Session

Unfortunately due to the current situation and social distancing guidelines we won't be able to offer any family learning sessions, however we will be continually assessing the situation and we hope to invite you into school in the near future.

Visits

Due to the ongoing global pandemic and changing guidelines we will not be going on a class visit this half term, however it is my hope that we will be able to arrange a visit relating to our class topic soon.

Miss Cooke and Mrs Robinson

*** Reminders ***

PE kits

Our focus this half term is dance, where we will be learning the Haka! Children need to bring PE kits to school on Monday, in preparation for their lessons on [Wednesday](#) and [Thursday](#). We also ask that PE kits remain in school until Friday and that they are then taken home over the weekend. The correct PE kit of white t-shirt and black shorts is expected along with appropriate footwear. Please be aware that children wearing earrings, or other jewellery, will not be permitted to take part in PE. If your child has his, or her, ears pierced, please make sure earrings are removed for school or that tape/plasters are provided to cover the piercings during the PE lesson.

School times

To ensure the safety of our children and to ease congestion we will continue to operate staggered start and home times. The times for Class 5 are as follows:

8:50—the class teacher will come out onto the playground to collect Class 5.

3.05pm—the class teacher will escort the children out onto the playground where they will be collected.

Morning session: 8:45am - 12:00pm

Afternoon session 1:00pm - 3:05pm

We ask that you stick to these times and are prompt when dropping your child off in the morning and when collecting in the afternoon. This is to ensure we do not have too many people in the playground at once and that the entrances to school and the pedestrian walkways aren't blocked. Please wait in the allocated areas in the upper school playground. Please ensure that I am able to see you when you collect your child to ensure your child's safety.

Homework

Homework is given out to all children on a Friday and will need to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Creative homework linked to our topic will be set each half term (see separate menu). Spellings will also be given out on Friday for your child to learn ready for a dictation test on the following Thursday.

Please can your child also read at home at least three times a week and make sure they bring their reading record and reading book to school each day as they are checked on a daily basis.

School Contact Details

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**Class 5
Curriculum Newsletter**

Autumn Term Two

**2021 - 2022
'Africa'**



If you need to have a word with your child's teacher please call the school office to arrange a telephone conversation for after school when they will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.

