



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 16th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. The children have all returned full of enthusiasm and are ready to learn! I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'Thank you' for your cards and generous gifts.

Our topic for this term is 'Across the Pond'. Throughout the term, the children will be focusing on North America, specifically looking at climate zones and key geographical features. As a class, we will dive into the history of the continent, looking closely at Native Americans and the physical and human characteristics of North America. Our science topics, this term are properties of materials followed by animals, including humans, later in the term. Please see the topic plan attached for more information about the curriculum.

Homework will continue in the same manner as it has done so far - there will be reading, spelling and Mathematics set every Friday. Spelling will be set via the Purple Mash homework blog. The children will continue to be set Mathematics and tasks should be completed by the following Wednesday. Although some children are still confident in their times tables, please continue to encourage them to practise at home as I would like the children to maintain the high level they set in Year 4. Please encourage your children to respond to reading in their Reading Journal at the end of each day's reading. Reading with your child is crucial at this stage in their development. Please take the time to listen to them read aloud every day, but also do read a story to them.

P.E lessons will continue to be on Monday and Thursday. Please ensure all school uniform and PE kit have been labelled with names. Children must also be able to remove their own earrings, as jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons.

We are also very fortunate to continue to learn Brass on a Friday morning. The children have all made huge amounts of progress in just a few weeks, so I look forward to seeing the development over the next term. Please ensure their instruments come to school with them on Thursdays, ready for the lesson first thing on Friday.

The children will continue to be supported daily in class by Miss Murphy. Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any concerns or queries. You may contact me via the school office or send an email directly to vhazelton@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk.

Kind regards,
Mrs Vicky Hazelton

Class Teacher
St William of York

English

As Year 5 explore the interesting topic 'Across the Pond', they will read the picture book *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* and focus on writing information and explanation texts. For guided reading, the children will read a novel called *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. We will explore vocabulary in detail as it is a text rich with interesting and clever vocabulary. Later in the term, they will read *Kasper Prince of Cats* and *The Story of the Titanic*. Both books will help to provide historical context and a wealth of factual knowledge for children to include in their writing.

Maths

We will continue to explore maths using a mastery approach. Children will learn methods for multiplying 4-digits by 2-digits and dividing 4-digits by 1-digit. They will further develop their understanding of fractions before moving on to relating this knowledge to decimals and percentages. They learn to order and compare decimals, and calculate percentages as fractions and decimals. Towards the end of the term, we will explore perimeter and area, calculating them, solving problems and explaining our reasoning. Our final topic of the term is looking at calculating, representing and analysing statistics.

Geography/History

North America

The children will be learning about the physical geography of North America, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts. We will consider the history of North America, specifically looking at Native Americans.

Later in the term, children will be locating the world's countries, using maps to focus on the environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities. Year 5 will start to understand the difference between the UK and a region in North America.

Science

Properties of materials & Animals

Children will explore and test different materials, investigating and categorising hardness, transparency and magnetism. We will be looking at materials used in everyday life and why these specific materials are used for the job they have been chosen for. Later in the term, we will be looking at animals, including humans and ending the term by exploring life cycles. Throughout this term we will spend time developing our scientific enquiry skills, our observation skills and how we present and analyse the results of our investigations.



Year 5 – Spring Term

Across the Pond

Teacher: Vicky Hazelton

Teaching Assistant: Niamh Murphy

Art

Whilst focusing on our topic of Across the Pond, children will look at the artist Georgie O'Keeffe. We will develop our watercolour techniques, to create striking landscapes and simple washes.

RE

The first RE topic this term is 'Mission'. We will begin to know and understand the mission of inspirational leaders, as well as exploring how the Dioceses continue the work on the mission of Jesus. We will also be looking at the local community, focusing around our church. The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. The cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities.

Within the second half term, we will be looking at how memories are kept alive. The children will learn about how the Eucharist keeps the memory of Jesus' sacrifice alive and present in a special way.

Some time will be spent this half term to explicitly teach the parts of the Mass. We will secure our knowledge on the format of a Mass, the different types of Liturgical celebrations we can have and why we have them.