

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

"Created by God to love and learn"



Terms 5 and 6

Year 4 – Miss Triggs and Mrs Swonnell

Welcome back to terms 5 and 6. Firstly a huge congratulations to all our children who took part in the Easter performance. It was great to see how much more confident they are now in front of an audience. They were a credit to our school whilst away on school camp and I am sure you have heard many tales about what went on. Do come to our class assembly to hear more about it and see some of the amazing photos on Thursday 11th May. Later this term 6, Miss Triggs will go on maternity leave and we all will wish her the best for the safe arrival of her twins. Luckily for our class, we will be welcoming Mrs Grew back from her maternity leave. We would love to have some parent volunteers come and support us in school. If you are available, do come and talk to one of us about ways you could help.

Spellings

It's been great to see the progress made in spelling so far. We will continue to give out new spellings on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please create time for your child to learn and practise them at home. We will also be sending home the Y3/4 national spelling list. This is a varied vocabulary sheet of words for them to learn and to use in their independent writing. Making up silly sentences and playing word games (written or spoken) with these would be great.

Homework

Supporting your child to do their homework will accelerate their learning. Homework will be given out every Friday and will need to be returned by the following Wednesday. The homework will comprise:

- An on-line Maths piece using My Maths
- Times-table practice
- Daily reading and book talk (a minimum of 10 mins and recorded in your child's reading record)
- Weekly spellings

Reading

There is nothing like practice to help your child become a better reader and reach a point where they choose to read freely for pleasure. Every child now has a reading book and reading record which they are to take home and bring back to school every day. It is important that your child reads at home for at least ten minutes every day and is able to talk about what they have read. Please continue to add words of encouragement, record tricky words as well as recording the actual pages of the book. The children can then rate their reading from the session using the stars. Children who read 4x a week at home will receive a house point and will go towards our class winning the school reading trophy which is awarded weekly. So far, we have only had it once; I'm sure we could do better.

Music

This term, we will use Bill Withers' Lean on Me as a focus in our musical journey. We will be learning to sing it, use it as an inspiration for some improvisation and learning to read some formal notation to play on our recorders. No doubt, Mrs S will also be teaching some of her silly songs too! If you are interested in your child learning an instrument individually or in a group, please talk to Mrs Swonnell about these opportunities.

Art

In term 5, our topic is craft and design: fabric of nature. Pupils will be taught to create drawings that replicate a selected image, select imagery, complete four drawings, created with confident use of materials and tools to add colour and understand the work of William Morris, using subject vocabulary to describe his work and style.

Mathematics

This term, in number, we will learn how to use formal methods of multiplication and division. We will then move onto our unit on fractions and decimals, which will include understanding mixed numbers and improper fractions, understanding tenths and hundredths as fractions and decimals, and compare and order decimals. In geometry, we will learn about the position and movement of shapes on a grid (think battleships). Later we will learn more about measures before recapping time. Measures includes money which, post covid, many children have had little practical experience with. Do make opportunities to use coins with your child.

Times Tables

At the beginning of term 6, your child will take part in the Government's National Multiplication Check. At this point, the expectation is that Y4 children should be fluent with all times tables' facts up to 12 x12. They have 6 seconds to answer each question on an online test.

We will be sending you a copy of their results on TT Rock Stars shortly so you can see where they have gaps in their knowledge and help them fill the gaps.

English

This term, pupils are reading the book, The Secret of Black Rock. It's a fabulous picture book which will complement our topic work about coasts. We will explore its narrative structure and will be developing our writing techniques using it as an inspiration. We will be looking at developing vocabulary, extending sentences with adverbial phrases and managing tenses correctly as well as revisiting a lot of the English grammar we have already taught.

Topic

During the next 2 terms, we will be learning about rivers and coasts. We will learn some new specific vocabulary to explain these geographical concepts, practise our mapping skills and consider their impact on settlements. Our trip in term 6 will allow us to visit not just the Botanical Gardens but also to use our mapping skills on the Downs and to take a bird's eye view of the River Avon on its journey to the sea.

RE

This term, we will cover the units of Easter and Pentecost. The Easter unit covers the journey to Emmaus and how this links to Christian belief today, as well as giving reasons for the reactions of the disciples after the resurrection. In the Pentecost unit, Pupils will be taught to explain and give reasons for the use of the particular symbols of the Spirit in the Pentecost Story and describe and explain the symbolism used in specific pieces of art. In term 6, our learning will be based on the Sacraments.

DT

In term 6, the DT topic will look at the structures of Pavilions. Pupils will produce a range of free-standing frame structures of different shapes and sizes, design a pavilion that is strong, stable and aesthetically pleasing, select appropriate materials and construction techniques to create a stable, free-standing frame structure and add cladding to their pavilion.

Science

During terms 5 and 6, we will be learning all about plants. We will have the chance to go to the Bristol Botanical Gardens to do some practical workshops as well as see some incredibly interesting plants from around the world.

PE

The children have a fabulous attitude to PE in this class and are great at remembering to wear their PE kit on PE days. Our PE kit is the yellow T shirt, PE hoodie with plain dark shorts. Do wear your PE kit on swimming days as it is easier to change in and out of. Mondays, this term, we are focussing on gymnastic skills. You have already been given dates for swimming on Wednesdays. When not swimming, PE will remain on Friday afternoons and will either be focussed on athletics skills or rounders. Please see the separate swimming letter for exact dates. Sports Day will be in the last week of term 5. We look forward to seeing you cheering on your children and maybe, racing in the parents' race.