

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

“Created by God to love and learn”



Terms 5 and 6

Year 4 – Mrs Broster 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 and the Stardust Project. It was great to see how much more confident they are now in front of an audience. In addition, the Kilve trip was a fantastic experience which the children thoroughly enjoyed. All the staff there were full of praise for their good manners, politeness and supportive attitude to each other. We will be showing lots of photos from the trip in our class assembly along with other interesting things we have been up to in Y4 this year. Pop the date in your diary now – 24th May.

Spellings

It's been great to see the progress made in spelling. We will continue to give out new spellings on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please create time to practise them at home. We have sent the Y3/4 national spelling list last week with your child's latest score update. Their pink spellings will make up the 5 extra words on the weekly list. Where children are now familiar with the majority of the words, we will be using them as root words and adding prefixes and suffixes.

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 become a better reader and reach a point where they choose to read freely for pleasure. 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 when you sign their book record.

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. Having won it twice – both at the end of last term and the beginning of this term – let's see how many weeks we can win it during T5 and T6!

Music

This term, we will pick back up with learning to play the recorder in class music. No doubt, there will also be time to learn some other 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 painting and mixed media: light and dark. Pupils will be developing skills in colour mixing, focusing on using tints and shades to create a 3D effect. Experimenting with composition and applying painting techniques will lead to a personal still life piece showing light and dark and therefore three dimensions.

Mathematics

This term, in number, we will 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.

The children will also be learning about data handling and making various tables, graphs, charts and pictograms whilst learning how to read them too before working on measures. Measures includes money which, post covid and the ease of using phones to pay, has meant many children have had little practical experience with it. 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, Stone Age Boy which will enhance our knowledge of that era. It's a fabulous picture book which will complement our topic work about prehistory. We will explore its narrative structure and will be developing our writing techniques using it as an inspiration. In Term 6, we will be reading a book by Michael Morpurgo, Kensuke's Kingdom. It's a lovely story which will prove a good launch pad for the children's writing.

Topic

During the next 2 terms, we will be focussing on a history topic which covers a period of prehistory. Our topic is called "From Stone Age to Iron Age" and covers 1000s of years. There are many sites of interest in the local area and slightly further away where evidence has been found from this period. The Old Sodbury Iron Age fort is freely accessible and makes for an interesting weekend walk.

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 be cooking and nutrition: adapting a recipe. This includes opportunities for children to learn a basic biscuit recipe and adapt it to suit a target audience.

The children will also participate in outdoor learning where they will create a sculpture in the school grounds based on the theme of nature.

Science

During terms 5 and 6, we will be learning states of matter and humans. To start off we will be looking at solids, liquids and gasses and what causes substances to change state. Later we will be focussing on humans and digestion.

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 will be doing athletic skills in outside PE. You have already been given dates for swimming on Wednesdays. When not swimming, PE will remain on Friday afternoons. 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.