



Happy New Year

Welcome back everyone. Although we've been back a few weeks now, I'd like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year ahead and I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break 😊 We have a very busy few terms ahead, especially as we approach SATs in early May. It is also our class assembly on Friday 23rd January!

Reading

Your children are making some really good progress with their reading fluency and comprehension. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home and sign your child's reading record with each read. Reading regularly with your children will help them develop fluency and expression as well as exposing them to new vocabulary. It is also important to question and keep discussing the book to support understanding. We have a varied selection of reading books in our class library for all types of reader. Please continue to encourage your child to read a wider selection of quality books as this will help prepare them not only for SATs, but also secondary school. We have a class Amazon Wishlist and are thankful for any donations: <https://amzn.eu/aNavXUg>

English Lessons – Reading and Writing

We teach a 30-minute reading lesson every day and focus on a class novel, non-fiction linked to learning in other subjects, and a wide range of poetry. Our reading focuses on increasing vocabulary and word knowledge, comprehension, fluency and reading for pleasure. **This term our class novel is a WW2 classic - 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll and 'Rose Blanche' By Ian McEwan. In term 4, we will be reading 'The Golden Cage' by Anna Castignoli.**

Writing is taught daily and we use picture books, poetry and animated films as a stimulus to base our writing on. We will be working on sentence level work – including accurate structure, tenses, vocabulary and punctuation. Those children who require more support with reading and writing will be supported in class.

Mathematics

As we begin to approach SATs, we will have a greater focus on mental arithmetic in class; we also have a set time each day for times tables fluency. In Y6 we spend a lot of time recapping mathematical concepts and basic facts as well as developing problem-solving skills. Over the coming two terms, our focus will be: ratio and proportion, decimals, algebra, angles and statistics. We are still encouraging children to use TT Rockstars to help with times tables (please let me know if you need password reminders). Maths homework tasks will be available on the My Maths portal. If you have questions about this, please ask.

Art

This term we will be learning to draw in perspective as well as seeing how artists express themselves in street art.

Science

In science this term, we are studying the unit: Evolution and Inheritance which focuses on how living things have evolved, changed and adapted over time. We will look at fossils, the evolution of humans and also how plants and animals have adapted to live in different environments.

Humanities

This term we are focusing on '**History**' and will be learning all about '**World War Two**'. Our learning will explore what life was like on the homefront, how the Blitz impacted Britain and especially Bristol. We will also learn about rationing, evacuation and war propaganda.

SUPPORT WITH SATS

SATs will be taking place from May 11th – 14th. We will soon be offering 'booster' sessions for a small group of children to build confidence and understanding. This will be communicated in due course.

If you are interested in helping at home, there are a number of really good free online platforms - I've listed a few of them here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrybvk7#zb2p3qt>

<https://myminimaths.co.uk/>

<https://corbettmathsprimary.com/>

In the next couple of weeks, I will be inviting all Y6 parents into school for a very short SATs meeting to explain the process and share the tests that children are expected to complete. Date to follow.



RE

Our third term focuses on the topic of: **Galilee to Jerusalem**. Children will learn about Jesus and the Beatitudes, and Transfiguration. Next term our topic is: **Desert to Garden**.

Music

This term will be exploring the use of percussion in performance.

PE

All children are expected to join in PE as it helps to develop fine and gross motor skills as well as improving their mental and physical health.

Whilst Y5 are swimming, Year 6 will be having double PE sessions on a Tuesday afternoon. A further PE lesson will be on a Thursday afternoon until further notice.

Please ensure that your child wears the correct school kit for every lesson - these can be worn on PE days. **Reminder: no earrings to be worn for PE and hair should always be tied up.**

Spellings

Children have already been sent spelling lists for this term and we'll continue to use a lot of visual and oral strategies to help remember words. Those children who require more support with spelling will be supported in class and may receive some different/additional words. Please support your child by helping them to learn their spellings and encourage them to use the words given to them as often as possible.