



Teresa Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another half term, I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the exciting curriculum content your child will be studying during the second half of the autumn term.

English and Maths

Your child will continue to explore and learn about a variety of different subject areas in their daily English and Maths lessons. To assist your child in their development in both of these curriculum areas, please support and encourage them to read aloud at home every night, as well as rehearsing mental maths strategies and times tables facts. Your child will be bringing home their maths target card, along with a leaflet containing ideas for exercises which can be completed to help them progress in their targeted areas of learning.

Science

During this half term, your child will be studying the topic of Electricity. Your child will learn to use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram. As they explore the workings of electrical circuits, they will be learning how to compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs. Also, your child will be able to extend their knowledge by exploring other sources of power and understand the importance of renewable energy in the current environment.

Whilst they study the topic of Electricity, the children will be encouraged to develop their skills at working scientifically. This includes: planning different types of scientific enquiry to answer questions; identifying scientific evidence to support ideas; reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, and using these to evaluate patterns. Your child will continue to develop their understanding of how to plan and carry out fair tests.

RE

This term your child will be learning about the notion of commitment and how it relates to different vocations. They will be learning about the process that priests have to go through on route to their ordination and what it means to commit to a life serving God. Furthermore, we will be encouraging your child to consider how important commitment is in relation to their own lives and people in their communities.

Our other topic this half term is 'Expectations.' Your child will be asked to reflect upon how Mary must have felt as she anticipated the arrival of Jesus. By studying the scriptures, we will explore how we can prepare throughout Advent for celebrating the coming of Jesus at Christmas and how His coming can have a positive impact upon our lives. This is a wonderful topic to lead us through the Advent period.

Geography

Over the course of this half term, your child will be studying various aspects of South Africa. They will be exploring the social geography of the country, learning about the population, the different cultures that make up the population and why South Africa is often referred to as *The Rainbow Nation*.

Your child will also learn about the physical geography of South Africa – researching various different physical features such as rivers and deserts – and will present their findings to each other.

Art

This half term, your child will explore African art, both traditional and contemporary, with a particular focus on the technique of batik. They will look at common subjects and patterns that appear in this art and try to create their own images to reflect these. Once they have explored these subjects, your child will have the opportunity to create their own batik with a Christmas theme.

Computing

This half term your child will be studying 'Coding'. This topic will enable your child to explain how simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs. They will learn to design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems. They will also work towards solving problems by decomposing them into smaller parts, as well as using repetition in programs for various forms of input and output.

Southwark Music Service

This term, years 5 and 6 will continue to work with staff from Southwark Music Services, who will be running music sessions in school on Thursdays. During these sessions your child will continue learning how to play the recorder. The sessions will involve the children initially listening and responding to a range of notes then leading to them exploring and performing a range of complex musical sequences culminating in a performance to other groups of children in the school. The sessions will improve your child's musical competency, developing their understanding of pitch, tempo, rhythm, rhyme and composition as well as develop their physical co-ordination.

We hope you will encourage your child to make the most of this great opportunity by partaking fully in the sessions and making the most of this enjoyable experience. In addition to these sessions, your child will have the opportunity to take part in school music sessions with the school's specialist music teacher Mr Dixon.

MFL

In French this half term, your child will be taught by a specialist French Teacher from St Michael's Catholic College. They will continue to apply the vocabulary learnt in years 3 and 4 as they explore their new unit of 'Notre Monde' – 'The World Around Us'. In this unit, the children look at different aspects of our world. They first learn the names of the continents in French. They then revise their knowledge of weather vocabulary and use this to describe some African countries. Animals are discussed, with special emphasis on the plural form, and the children talk about habitats and the geographical features of several landscapes. They move on to compare and contrast France and some French-speaking African countries.

PE

This half term your child will be taking part in outdoor P.E. every Wednesday and they will be learning and developing skills in basketball including, passing, shooting and dribbling.

Your child will also have indoor PE every Monday and will be exploring traditional African dance. They will start by learning some basic steps, then in small groups they will choreograph a rain dance. Towards the end of this half term they will be challenged to reinterpret this as a snow dance. Your child will be performing using a range of movement, speed, levels and props.

Your child will also partake in football development lessons with David Dines, our sports coach, and will therefore need a full PE kit for this on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their full outdoor PE kit for all lessons, ensuring that all items of clothing are clearly marked with their full name and their class.

PSHE

During the autumn term, your child will explore the topic of Friendship. They will learn the importance of good friendships and the qualities needed to achieve this. Additionally, your child will continue to learn about the values within our school environment and beyond as they explore bullying.

Your child will also learn what it means to be a good citizen in our community. This will develop their understanding of firework safety for themselves and others around them.

Homework

Your child will continue to receive Maths each Thursday so that you have an opportunity to look over it with them and ask questions on Friday, if there is anything they do not understand. They will receive their English homework each Friday. Homework is always linked to the work that has been carried out in class and provides your child with a valuable opportunity to share and consolidate the learning that has taken place in school. Your child's homework will be stuck in their homework book and this book should be returned to school on Monday mornings.

Spelling lists and spelling sentences books will be given out each Tuesday and should be learnt throughout the week for a spelling test on the following Monday. Your child should practise their spellings every day to ensure they have committed them to memory and can apply them in their sentence book. We will be giving your child different spelling strategies in school which they can apply at home.

Thank you for your support in this area, particularly with helping your child recognise and build on their feedback each week.

Routines

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time. Children are still permitted to bring a piece of fruit from home each day if desired. It is important that your child brings their school water bottle, full, to school each day. If your child does not have a school water bottle, they are available from the school office for £1.50. Please ensure any money sent into school, is enclosed in a school money pocket and detailed with the necessary information. Money pockets can be purchased from the school reception. Please remember to check your child's school bag for any letters which may require parental permission.

Finally, it would be greatly appreciated, if parents/carers collecting children in years 5+6 at the end of the day, could please leave the ramp by the gate clear, and stand behind the wall – to facilitate an efficient and safe dismissal.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Wright

Teresa Class Teacher