



Year 5 Newsletter Summer Term

North America – is it really that different?

Healthy Living – how can I be healthier?

The Year 5 team would like to welcome you back to school; we hope that you were able to enjoy family time over the Easter break. There is much excitement in our classrooms about our trip to Osmington Bay, coming up in two days' time! We hope you will be able to rest assured that, in loco parentis, the whole staff team will be looking after your children as they would their own. The children will have a wonderful time and return on Friday with lots of stories to keep you amused. Get the washing machine ready!

This term, our first Topic will have a geography focus as we investigate the continent of North America. We are hoping to link up with a school in New York which, in turn, will help us answer our question: is North America really that different? In the final half term, our Topic has the title: Health Matters. Science will lead this unit, where we will learn about all of the factors which contribute to making us healthy individuals. This has quite a holistic approach, considering the importance of keeping ourselves well mentally and emotionally as well as diet and exercise.

In Literacy:

For the first half term, we will be working on our descriptive writing, linked to the class text: Holes by Louis Sachar. From week four, we will move onto writing non-fiction reports on a different city in North America. Both units will focus on improving the quality of sentence structures being used and revision of how to use commas in our work to add detail and clarify meaning.

After the May half-term, we will hone our skills of persuasion! The children will be designing a healthy salad in DT. Using their persuasive Literacy devices and techniques, the children will deliver a speech, trying to convince our 'Dragons Den' judges that their salad is not to be missed!

Each Friday, we will continue to have a weekly lesson focussing on spelling and grammar skills which will support the accuracy and maturity of our writing.

In Science:

This summer term is all about Biology! We will initially be considering how to group living things into biological 'families', using a classification system. After May half term, we will move into looking at the circulatory and respiratory systems. We will also consider what makes a healthy diet and the importance of regular exercise. There will be a strong link to the work we cover in PSHE on wellbeing.

In Maths:

We will begin the Summer term with a focus on measure: length, weight and capacity. We will be using measurements to find the area and perimeter of regular and irregular shapes, moving on to finding the volume of cuboids, with associated units. Linked to our cross-curricular work, we will be looking at statistics associated with North America and how we can use and interpret this data through graphs and charts.

We will maintain our fluency in all four operations, Times Tables remain really important. There will be a focus on how to apply our fluency to worded-problems, something many children find tricky.

In Geography:

We will be uncovering variety of landscapes, biomes, cultures, geographical features and wildlife across the enormous and exciting continent of North America. We will be polishing up our atlas skills and becoming more confident in the use of geographical language associated with maps e.g.: equator, latitude and longitude.

The children will compare and contrast different states and biomes, recognising that a wide range of ecosystems and environments make up this continent. Is it really that different to the UK? That's the question we will be seeking to answer.

In other areas of the curriculum:

PSHE: Our focus will be on keeping ourselves safe, both physically and emotionally. We have visits booked from the fire service and our local community police team. We will also consider how we keep ourselves safe emotionally and how we respond if we feel uncomfortable in a situation. We will be covering Puberty in the first half-term: a separate letter will follow next week with more details.

Art: We will be looking at the lively Pop Art style and producing some colourful displays we will hopefully be able to share with you.

P.E. Hopefully with warmer weather ahead, we will be working on our athletic skills as well as striking and fielding. Some of the work will tie in with the science on heart rate and oxygen circulation.

French: We will continue to improve our oral work, with a focus on describing holidays and trips with our family.

Computing: Our focus will be creating and manipulating spreadsheets.

Music: Mrs Beton will be opening up the world of Native American songs with a focus on the texture within the music. For the final half term, we will be taking part in improvisation and considering chords.

R.E. In our final term, we will consider the concept of worship and the difference between loving something and truly worshipping it. This will be followed by a unit on stewardship and how, as humans, we all have our part to play in keeping the creation around us free from litter, pollution and damage.

D.T: We will be designing, making and evaluating healthy salads which will be presented at a Dragons Den!

Extended Learning Opportunities:

You may want to find out about some of the famous landmarks and tourist attractions in North America and then share your research with us in class.

To support our work on classification, you could do some research on a living plant/animal/microbe of your choice, covering habitat, diet, behaviour etc. You can present your research in any way you choose.

Homework:

The Year 5 team will continue to test Tables each Thursday and to check Times Tables books on this day too. Reading journals (with a minimum of three reads signed by a parent/carer) should be handed in on a Friday, as should spelling journals. Spellings will be tested on a Friday morning each week.

Reminders:

5TT and 5TB will continue to do PE on a Wednesday and Thursday. 5JF will be on a Thursday and Friday.

As the weather warms up, please make sure your child has a water bottle in school and, if they are prone to burning, a sun hat and sun lotion. This may be wishful thinking on our part....they may need a raincoat!

Please do not hesitate to contact the Year 5 team via class emails if you need any more information.