

**St Augustine’s CE Primary school**

**Year 5 Newsletter**

**Autumn 1**

Welcome back to the new academic year and the first term of Year 5. The children have already started brilliantly and are settling in well! This year promises to be one filled with learning, growth, creativity, and lots of fun!

**Nourishing reminders for parents and pupils on healthy eating**

The school is committed to providing an environment that promotes healthy eating and enables children to make informed choices about the food they eat. We believe that what children eat affects how they learn, how they feel and how they behave.

Healthy packed lunches, fruit snacks and water are encouraged within the school day. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. The school does not allow sweets or other foods high in sugar or fat to be used as a reward for good behaviour or other achievements. Other methods of positive reinforcement are used in school, which may include cooking activities.

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. Kindly ensure that your child does not bring any nuts or nut-based products, such as Nutella.

**Reminder of routines**

Children should arrive to school in between 8.45 a.m. and 8.55 a.m. every day. Children need to be in their class at 8.55 a.m. so that they can start their lessons promptly. Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. Thus, it is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child’s own learning and that of others.

Please ensure that your child only brings in a coat, book bag, water bottle and packed lunch (if you are not having a school dinner). It is a good idea to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at breaktime. Children are not allowed to bring in toys, games or their own stationary.

**English: Writing**

During this half term, our curriculum will encompass a wide range of literary and writing activities. We will delve into "Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay" by Alexandra Stewart, with the aim of crafting diary entries as either Hillary or Norgay. These entries will vividly describe the sights and emotions experienced at the summit, using illustrations as inspiration. Additionally, we will explore journalistic writing through the creation of a newspaper report, offering a captivating account of conquering Everest in the style of the 1950s. Furthermore, we will embark on the exciting task of producing a tourist brochure for an Alpine resort, aiming to capture the allure of this mountainous region through our writing.

**English: Reading**

The children will maintain a regular reading routine at school, involving independent reading, guided group reading, and whole-class reading sessions. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to relish stories being read aloud to them. Throughout this term, their reading fluency will continue to advance, with a growing focus on understanding more complex texts at a deeper level. They will refine a range of skills, including inference, prediction, and summarisation, enabling them to explore the meaning and subtleties of the texts they encounter further.

**Maths**

In mathematics for this half term, we will be covering various areas, and our school's successful adoption of the Mathematics Mastery programme will continue to guide our teaching approach. The Year 5 Maths Mastery curriculum encompasses several key aspects, including (A) helping pupils understand, compare, and solve number and practical problems up to 1,000,000, (B) exploring strategies for tackling larger numerical challenges while developing reasoning skills to choose appropriate operations and methods, and (C) enhancing the ability to read and interpret data presented in tables and line graphs, while also addressing questions involving comparisons, sums, and differences. This comprehensive approach aims to provide our pupils with a solid foundation in mathematics.

**Science**

During this half term, we will be covering the fascinating topic of life cycles and reproduction. Pupils will learn about the different stages of life in plants, animals, and humans, discovering how living things grow, develop, and reproduce. They will explore how plants produce seeds, how animals, including humans, grow from birth to adulthood, and how new life begins. This study will help them understand the amazing processes that allow life to continue and thrive in the natural world, following the national curriculum for Science.

**Geography**

During this half term, our curriculum will focus on exploring life in the Alps. Pupils will engage in various activities to deepen their understanding of this mountainous region. They will begin by locating the Alps on a world map and identifying and labelling the eight countries they span. Additionally, they will pinpoint three physical and three human characteristics specific to the Alps. Further research will involve a detailed examination of the physical and human features of Innsbruck. To gather data, pupils will employ a range of methods, including completing questionnaires, mapping their route, and documenting their findings through sketches or photographs. They will also undertake a comparative study between the human and physical geography of their local area and Innsbruck. Ultimately, pupils will describe at least four key aspects of the human and physical geography of the Alps to address the overarching inquiry question, 'What is life like in the Alps?'

**RE**

The Religious Education (RE) topic for this half-term is titled "Incarnation." This unit's focus will center around the question, "What do the miracles tell us about Jesus?"

**PE**

Physical Education (PE) sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. On these days, pupils should attend school dressed in their PE kit, which includes a white polo shirt, navy shorts or jogging trousers, and black trainers without any coloured trim. Additionally, every Monday afternoon, pupils will also have cricket.

**Homework**

Pupils will receive weekly homework in English, usually focused on grammar, spelling, science or history/geography, and mathematics. This homework will be sent home every Friday and will include an optional task titled "Why Don't You?" The homework must be submitted by the following Wednesday. Please assist your child with the homework if you are able, but also encourage independence. If you have any questions regarding the homework, please let us know.

**Home-school Reading**

Each week, children will bring home a book that is appropriate for their current reading level. Please read with them and discuss what they have read for at least 20 minutes every day. Your child will continue to bring home their reading record, please use it to make note of what they have read and to add your own comments. The reading record should be returned to school daily to be checked, and we will provide a comment on Wednesdays when the homework is returned.

**Key Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 1st October 2024 | Mass |
| Friday 4th October 2024 | Visit to the London Zoo |
| Friday 25th October 2024 | Last day of the half-term |

If you have any concerns you would like to discuss with us, please schedule an appointment with the school office.

Best wishes,

**Miss Adams**

**Miss Ronesa**

**Miss Maria**