

**St Augustine’s CE Primary school**

**Year 5 Newsletter**

**Autumn 2**

Greetings for the return of Autumn 2 in Year 5. I sincerely hope that both you and your child have been able to recharge and rejuvenate and are eager for another action-packed and thrilling half-term.

**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 explore the "Three Pigs Guardian Ad Film stimulus" with the aim of creating a tweet that demonstrates contrasting viewpoints. Next, pupils will compose an informal letter from the wolf, allowing him to share his perspective on the story. Following that, the pupils will draft instructions for the care of a pet dragon or another exotic creature. Finally, we will delve into poetry, focusing on "Caged Bird" and "I, Too." Pupils will craft their own free verse poems centred around the theme of freedom, which will be related to the novel "The Boy in the Tower."

**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 this term, children will focus on two main mathematical topics: multiplication and division, and perimeter and area. For multiplication and division, the curriculum covers identifying multiples and factors, finding factor pairs, recognising prime numbers up to 100, and solving problems using these concepts. The lessons aim to deepen their understanding of these mathematical properties and encourage pattern recognition. Additionally, mental strategies for multiplication and division will be explored, including multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1000, and using doubling and halving. Pupils will compare strategies and select the most appropriate ones. In the final section, formal written methods for multiplication and division will be introduced, including short and long multiplication. Pupils will explore problem-solving and reasoning across various contexts, always focusing on justifying the efficiency of their chosen methods. This approach aims to help pupils understand the similarities and differences in solving multiplication and division problems, fostering a comprehensive understanding of these fundamental concepts.

**Science**

This half term, the children will be exploring materials, specifically mixtures and methods of separation. They will learn to define and identify mixtures, understand the processes of sieving, filtering, dissolving, and evaporating, and recognise when each method should be used. They’ll also study how temperature and other factors affect the dissolving process. Through hands-on activities, pupils will investigate mixtures, make scientific observations, and plan fair tests. By the end of the unit, they will be able to explain these separation techniques and apply them in practical contexts.

**History**

This half term, the children will be learning about the ancient Maya civilisation and how it compares to the Anglo-Saxons. They’ll explore key features of the Maya civilisation, including its timeline, the unique challenges of rainforest life, and the distinctive structures of Maya homes and cities. Pupils will examine the Maya creation story, identify important gods, and investigate archaeological evidence from Maya cities. They’ll also learn about the reasons behind the Maya civilisation's decline, comparing it with Anglo-Saxon society. Through this unit, pupils will develop skills in timeline sequencing, historical comparison, and map-making.

**RE**

The Religious Education (RE) topic for this half-term is titled "Christmas: How do art and music convey Christmas?" This unit's focus will centre around the questions: "What do the Gospel accounts reveal about the theology (beliefs) associated with the festival of Christmas? How is the theology (beliefs) of Christmas represented in art today? Do Christmas carols convey the central beliefs of Christmas to the world? The Nativity narrative; whose story is it to tell?"

**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** |
| Friday 8TH November 2024 | School Photographer to Capture Individual Photos |
| Monday 11th November 2024 | Remembrance Day Service in Collective Worship |
| Friday 15th November 2024 | Kensuke’s Kingdom at Vue, Finchley Road |
| Monday 18th November 2024 | NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme Workshop |
| Monday 2nd December 2024 – Tuesday 3rd December 2024 | SCARF Wellbeing Workshop |
| Monday 2nd December 2024 – Tuesday 3rd December 2024 | Parents’ Evening |
| Friday 6th December 2024 | Paddington Christmas Tree Lighting, 4 pm to 6 pm |
| Thursday 19th December 2024 | Nativity and Carols Performance Scheduled at Church AM |
| Friday 20th December 2024 | Last day of 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**