

Year Five Newsletter

Friday 11thth September 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year Five. I am delighted to be teaching your child (again, in most cases!) and I think that we will be in for an exciting year ahead. I am so grateful for the effort that your child put into their lockdown learning. We have spent time in class reflecting on home learning and it has been wonderful to find out all about the fabulous activities which the children did.

We are beginning our new school year with 'The Recovery Curriculum'. Fundamentally, this will help your child to recap the key skills in Maths and English, which will then enable them to move on with their learning in a timely fashion. In addition, the approach, which we are taking in School encompasses the opportunity to place our pupils' mental health and well being at the centre of what we are doing. The current situation may place various stresses and strains on our children, so it is important for me to be able to help the children have fun, play games, socialise with each other and discuss what is on their minds.

Our RE topic is called, 'Ourselves'. In this topic, your child will learn about their uniqueness and what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God. The children will learn about some amazing human beings who have dedicated their lives to God, and are great examples for us to follow. Year Five pupils are invited to become members of the 'Mini Vinnies'. The youth group of the St Vincent De Paul Society, focuses on caring for others. In the past, the Year Five members have supported some valuable causes and I look forward to us making some exciting plans for helping others in the forthcoming year.

Our Maths work for this half term will mainly focus on number and place value (1000s, 100s, 10s and 1s, for example), addition and subtraction and statistics (interpreting data and graphs). I have already begun with recapping times tables. As you may be aware, it is vital that all children know their times tables up to 12x12. This knowledge helps them with so many areas of mathematics, including column multiplication. When your child is ready, the Year Five Curriculum has a heavy focus on fractions and percentages. These areas also rely on times table knowledge. I will be helping the children to know their times tables in class but your support in this is also greatly appreciated.

Our English work this half term will focus on poetry and narrative (story) writing. We have already started exploring poetry and are currently looking at the work of contemporary poet, Matt Goodfellow. The children (and teachers) are loving his poems as many of them are quite funny! He also delivers some great messages which reflect our Recovery Curriculum aims, and helps each one of our children realise their true worth and potential. Matt Goodfellow can be found on YouTube and he did some great poetry sessions for children during lockdown. Watch out for our poems on Twitter very soon! Our narrative work will begin in a couple of weeks and we are focusing on quests and journeys. I have a great trilogy of picture books called, 'Journey', by Aaron Becker that we will be using to explore characterisation and setting.

P.E. takes place every Wednesday and Thursday. Please can you encourage your child to be organised with bringing the required kit into school on these days. If you can help them to be organised, that will be great. Can I also request that, when we send the kit home on a Thursday, it is washed and back into School for the following Wednesday.

Homework in Year Five consists of key skills: Spellings, Reading and Maths work. Homework will be handed out every Friday. Your child will be tested on spellings and times tables/mental maths every Friday. Please can you make sure that your child brings their homework book back into school every **Wednesday** in order for us to be able to mark any work before it goes out again on Friday.

At St Paulinus, we love reading and value the worth that reading brings to any individual at any age. In class, I read to the pupils several times a day. We have a whole class text, which I read to the children after lunch everyday (the pupils voted for our first whole class text to be 'The Railway Children'). I also read extracts of books from our class library, poetry and non-fiction topic books. Your child will also have many opportunities throughout a week to read: their reading book to themselves or an adult, a group text with me and a non-fiction text for research purposes. Currently, I am asking the pupils to bring a book from home to read as part of their own individual reading book. I am currently working on establishing a system that allows our pupils in Upper KS2 to be able to borrow class and school library books. More details will follow shortly about this.

Finally, I want to reassure you that we are doing our best to help your child during the continuing pandemic. If you have any concerns about your child, please get in touch. Your child's well being is of the upmost importance and I am here to support should you need anything.

Love and Best Wishes,

Mrs Bircham

Mrs Hart

Mrs Hopkinson

Year Five Team.