



Year 5 Summer Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

As we begin the final term of Y5, the year group can look back with pride over two terms of growing and maturing. The next few weeks are all about consolidating their learning and setting up the children to be as prepared as possible for Y6. We have had a great year together and are impressed with the progress that has been made.

Just a reminder that homework is set every Monday and due every Sunday by 8pm. Homework Club is every Wednesday lunch time.



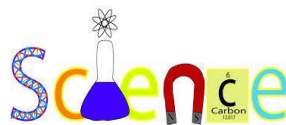
Having just finished off our gripping novel, "Boy in the Tower", we have started to explore the poem "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes. We will be using it as inspiration for our own narrative poems and exploring metaphoric language.. Following on from this, we'll be diving into the world of Jamie Drake, the star of "The Jamie Drake Equation", by Christopher Edge. The children will continue to develop their understanding of text type, purpose and audience.



We've started Summer term with a look at Statistics and Shape, before we run out of "S"s and move onto Position and Direction. Decimals make a return after that, before we take a dive into Negative numbers and finish the year Converting Units and Volume.

To prepare the children for Y6, we will also be doing weekly full arithmetic tests, usually on a Friday.

These will be marked and given back to the children so they can see for themselves which calculations they most need to focus on. Maths boosters will also continue this term for those who benefit from a morning maths boost.



This term, we have been completing our unit on Living Things and Their Habitats, most recently planting some seeds and also conducting an experiment (which is ongoing) with seeds in different conditions.

We'll be moving on to Properties and Changes of Materials as our final unit of Y5, all the while making sure we're "working scientifically".

Our two topics for this term are “Salvation” and “Kingdom of God”. During our RE lessons we will be focusing on the big questions: “What do Christians believe Jesus did to save human beings?” and “What Kind of King is Jesus?”. We will also be exploring what it means to be a Global Neighbour.



This term we are going to be exploring some local history. We are going to be thinking about how the market place in Durham City has changed over time and evaluate its uses now and then. We will be using a range of historical sources to help us do this such as census data, church records, trade directories, books and photographs. We will also have a visit from a member of our local community who can tell us more about how the market place has changed in their lifetime.



This term we are looking at mapwork. We will extend our knowledge of Ordnance Survey symbols and plan routes using maps. We will interpret contour lines, layer shading and spot heights on maps to understand how landscapes are represented.



Following on from our exciting term of violin and concentrating on ensemble performance, in the Summer term we will be exploring more improvisation and composition skills. We will be introducing some new notation of the staff including sharps and flats. We will also be continuing to develop listening and performing skills using more complicated rhythmic patterns building on the syncopated beats previously learned using single, tied and dotted quavers.



This term in art focuses on climate change. Students will work with a local artist to create a whole school tiled collage. Year 5 will experiment with batik and create a jellyfish from found plastic objects.



The children have started the summer term with a unit on athletics including running, throwing and jumping. They will be encouraged to consider how they can improve and get better. They will then develop cricket skills which they have previously been introduced to and apply them in small game settings.



Having finished our maze games last term, we're now looking at how we can code music for them, whilst also combining our ICT skills with Digital Literacy by creating digital posters to do with Password safety and learning about SPAM, and why things we put on the internet are there forever...

French

In French this term, we will be looking at the world. We will focus on the continents, French speaking countries and landscapes. We will also look at various flags of French speaking countries. We will revise/recap the numbers 1-30 and the phonics É & È. We will finish the year by describing in depth the characteristics of a particular French speaking country.



In D&T this term we'll be looking at seasonality in food and nutrition. We will learn about which foods we can grow in the UK and when they are ready to eat. We will also discuss the importing of food goods and the implication of air miles on pollution and climate change. We will learn about Jamie Oliver and why he chooses to use seasonal ingredients in his recipes and meals. We will prepare, taste and cook some of these seasonal foods using skills such as chopping, slicing, grating and mixing.



We will complete the remaining two puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw curriculum this summer term.

The first puzzle piece is 'Relationships'. Children will learn about the importance of self-esteem and ways this can be boosted. This is important in an online context as well as off-line, as mental health can be damaged by excessive comparison with others. This leads onto a series of lessons that allow the children to investigate and reflect upon a variety of positive and negative online/ social media contexts including gaming and social networking. They learn about age -limits and also age-appropriateness. Within these lessons, children are taught the SMARRT internet safety rules and they apply these in different situations. Risk, pressure and influences are revisited with a focus on the physical and emotional aspects of identifying when something online or in social media feels uncomfortable or unsafe. Children are taught about grooming and how people online can pretend to be whoever they want.

Rights, responsibilities and respect are revisited with an angle on technology use. Screen time is also discussed and children find ways to reduce their own screen time. This Puzzle aims to help children to be more discerning when viewing anything online or on social media. The final puzzle piece we will look at is 'Changing Me'. In this Puzzle, the children revisit self-esteem, self-image and body image. They learn that we all have perceptions about ourselves and others, and these may be right or wrong. They also reflect on how social media and the media can promote unhelpful comparison and how to manage this. Puberty is visited, explaining bodily changes in males and females. Sexual intercourse is explained. Children are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification about anything they don't understand.

Further details about pregnancy are introduced including some facts about the development of the foetus and some simple explanation about alternative ways of conception, e.g. IVF. Children learn that having a baby is a personal choice. Details of contraceptive options and methods are not taught as this is not age-appropriate. Reasons why people choose to be in a romantic relationship and choose to have a baby are also explored. Children look at what becoming a teenager means for them with an increase in freedom, rights and responsibilities. They also consider the perceptions that surround teenagers and reflect whether they are always accurate, e.g. teenagers are always moody; all teenagers have a boyfriend/girlfriend, etc. Children will always be given an opportunity to ask questions and seek reassurance, particularly if anything is worrying them.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 5 team.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Brookes, Mrs Donaghy and Miss Hirst