



St Helen's Church of England School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Claire Lewis

Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Dear Year 5 families,

Happy new year to you all and welcome to the Spring Term! We finished the Autumn Term with a brilliant open morning to celebrate all the fabulous achievements from the beginning of the year and it was lovely to see so many of you join us and support your children in their learning.

Our Spring term will be full of wonderful opportunities for the class to continue developing their skills and knowledge through our new theme of Social Injustice – exploring what fairness and justice is, and what is fair and unfair to us, our community and our world. A separate curriculum overview is also available on the website so that you can see the areas that we, as a class, have decided to focus on this term. There is a lot to fit in but at the pace we work – I'm sure we can cover most of it!!

English will be text and visual based and will, wherever possible, link to the learning theme of Social Injustice and our Collective Worship theme of courage. Lessons will explore texts and visuals in depth and allow children to learn in a variety of ways including through drama, reading, story mapping, a variety of sentence and text level activities and extended writing.

Discrete daily spellings sessions will support children in building their knowledge of different strategies, and grammar activities will help children to understand the technicality of writing which they can then apply in their extended writing. Children will continue to be encouraged to practise their English skills online with IXL for home learning tasks and a list of the weekly spellings will be sent home on a Friday so that children can consolidate their understanding of them.

Maths will continue to be taught using the Connective Model and follow a variety of topics to ensure a breadth of knowledge is developed. Written maths homework and IXL maths will be sent home each Friday and your child can continue to practise their mental strategies at home, such as multiplication and division facts, adding and subtracting and quick fire facts like doubles and halves.

We will be outside as much as possible for PE so please make sure kits are in every day – they will be sent home each half term to be washed. Please ensure your child has a full change of clothes and trainers.

Home Learning

Thank you to all the children who completed so much wonderful home learning last term. It was super to see the books come in every week with activities that children had carried out at home. All homework

should be recorded by children in their purple home learning books. We would encourage parents to read the home learning books to check for homework. Each week, there is a variety of tasks for children to complete but they don't need to work through all of them. The tasks will reflect the work carried out in class each week so children can choose which activities they would like to focus on. There are tasks at different levels that help to consolidate different skills and children can always look at other year groups for IXL practice if they need to.

We would especially encourage parents to read regularly with children and make sure that all reading is recorded in the blue reading diary/home/school contact books and that these are in school every day.

A few points to recap:

- PE kit – black or navy shorts or jogging bottoms / white collarless T shirt / and trainers please. The children are out in the drizzle, so a change is important.
- Please send a fresh piece of fruit for morning break each day.
- Children need to have water bottles in school each day.
- Please ensure all clothing is labelled clearly.
- Pupil learning will begin at 9am.

If you would like to speak to me at any time, please feel free to have a quick chat at 8:50am or call in at the office to make an appointment.

Wishing you all the best for the new term ahead and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Mrs Marston

January 2018