



2005 Newsletter

Grades 5/6

Welcome back to the summer term! I hope that you all had a great and adventure packed Easter holiday and that the children are all ready for what lies ahead this term. One thing that I am sure of, is that it will be a busy time as the children prepare for their QCA tests in June and finish their academic year. Thank you to all the parents who attended the Grade 6 evening last term and the Sports Day, which was so much fun! My congratulations must go to Taylor Bay but also to all the other competitors who tried so hard and competed so enthusiastically.



It seems that just prior to each term, there are serious world events happening. Over the Easter break, there has been a further earthquake in the tsunami affected region and the death of Pope John Paul II. If you have any articles or information about either of these events or important local, regional and international news, please can you send them in, as we will be looking at news events and the life of Pope John Paul II.

Literacy

The term will commence with work on narrative texts, looking at empathy and point of view in texts from different cultures. We will then move on to looking at choral and performance poetry and in our word level work, we will be looking at spelling strategies, rules and exceptions and dialects. Following poetry, we will examine author style in narrative texts, standard English and words from other languages.

Mathematics

Beginning with place value, including estimation and approximation and simple proportions, we will then express quotients as fractions or as a decimal when dividing whole numbers and extend our written methods for the multiplication of two digit numbers by two digit numbers.

Science

Science work this term will be about Light and Shadows and the Earth, Sun and Moon. We may back this up with a trip to a radio telescope and planetarium when in England.



Myles and Ashleigh will be celebrating their birthdays this month on the 11th and 19th respectively. Many happy returns to you both!!!

If you want to know more about the English National Curriculum that we follow, a useful site is the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Parent Centre:
http://www.parentcentre.gov.uk/learnjournal/index_ks2.cfm?ver=graph



ICT - In ICT, we will be modelling effects on screen and looking at graphical modelling using the Turtle program.

Social Studies - The children will complete their learning about rivers and we will be examining issues from the news both locally and around the world. Our history study is that of the life of a famous person and how that life has affected recent history. Our famous person will be Pope John Paul II.

Art/Design Technology - Miss Sara will be taking the class for Art and Design and Technology this term. The children will be working on their river feature designs and models. Art work will concentrate on the craft tradition of making vessels and containers. The children will develop their own designs and build a 3D form to represent a vessel that will hold something that they care for.

Physical Education - PE this term will be swimming and athletics. I will give you further information about the arrangements for swimming when they are finalised.

Citizenship - In Key Stage 2 assemblies this term we will be looking at choices that people make, particularly when under pressure and issues that are current in the news and media.

Music - Miss Alison will be teaching music and this month will be concentrating on the theme of a Journey into Space. The children will investigate the music of past composers that has dealt with space and make their own compositions. This links with our science topic.



Trip to England

Preparations for the forthcoming trip continue. I will be giving a presentation to you nearer the time but I anticipate that the trip will take place in the week beginning 12th June. Johanne Karam has been working exceptionally hard in researching the cost of flights and additional information that we require. I have received the list of families in England that are willing to host the children and will be sending out questionnaires for both sets of families soon, along with contact information. The host school are already arranging some events for us and I will be working with their teacher, Mrs Gover, to plan a schedule that fits in with them. Many companies have been approached regarding sponsorship and some individuals have offered to help with the funding too. If you do know anyone who would be willing to contribute, then please let me know. At present, nine children's parents have expressed that they would like their child to take part, with Johanne Karam and Sharon Fletcher being the parent helpers. I will keep you updated.
Busy, busy, busy!

Websites

Useful websites this term:

Literacy - listen to poets performing their poems out loud:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/poetry/outloud/index.shtml>

Mathematics: Explore the fun world of maths:

<http://www.counton.org/>

Science: Earth and Moon viewer:

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/earthview/vplanet.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/earth/index.shtml>

In the news:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/>

The Pope:

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2005/pope/>

Geography:

<http://www.visitbritain.com>

<http://www.the-british-isles.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/riversandcoasts/mainmenu.shtml>