



All Souls' Catholic
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Year 5 – Spring Newsletter

Friday 19th January 2018

Hello and a very happy new year to you all! I hope you all had a great Christmas and a chance to have a good rest. I would like to thank you for your Christmas gifts! These were a lovely surprise and very much appreciated- thank you!

We have a busy term coming up and I hope that this newsletter will answer any questions that you have. As always though, if you have any unanswered questions or would like to speak to me about anything (however small), feel free to grab me at the end of the day or alternatively, make an appointment through the office.

Spring Term Curriculum

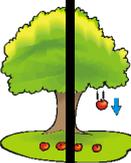
Literacy –Our text for this term is Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling. After only having read a couple of chapters, we are already hooked and I can't wait to see what imaginative and magical writing the children will produce around this wonderful story. Our writing genres will include formal letters, newspaper reports, story writing, non-chronological reports and explanation texts.



Numeracy – We have begun the term with our topic on multiplication and division. This topic will involve the written methods of short and long multiplication and short division, as well as mental calculations and problem solving. We will then move on to working with fractions where we will focus on comparing and ordering fractions, multiplying and adding fractions, converting between mixed and improper fractions and learning that fractions have decimal equivalents. This will then lead on to introducing percentages. As always, we will be practising our times tables and mental skills daily.



Science –Our first topic this term is Forces. The children will have lots of opportunities to design and carry out practical investigations, looking at the effects of many forces including air resistance, water resistance, friction and gravity. After the half term break, we will then move on to studying living things and their habitats. This will involve looking at the life cycles of animals and the process of reproduction in plants and some animals.



RE – After completing our Christmas unit, we are now moving on to look at Baptism and the Parables and Sayings of Jesus. After half term, we will begin our preparations for Easter with our learning about Lent and Holy Week. To help with our baptism unit, children are welcome to bring in any photographs of their own baptism (or any that they might have attended) for our classroom display –thank you.



PE – This term, one of our PE slots has changed. **Our PE days are now Tuesday (badminton) and Thursday (gymnastics).** Please ensure that your child has their kit in school on these days and that earrings are not worn.

Reading



I have been so impressed with the amount of reading taking place in Year 5! It is great to see the children challenging themselves to read lots and enjoying different types of genres. Your child should be aiming to read at home on a (almost) daily basis. The expectation for Year 5 is that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes 5 times a week (at least one of these times should be with an adult). Your child should fill in their reading record each time they read and it should be handed in every Monday to be checked. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading and that you sign their record each week to confirm that what is recorded is a true record. I cannot stress how important it is that you encourage your child to read at home as so much can be gained from this.

Spelling

Some Fridays, your child will bring home a list of spellings that they are to learn for a test on the following Friday. On other weeks, your child will receive no such list and instead is expected to practise their list of Year 5/6 Statutory Words that they have brought home. Remember to focus on the words that are not highlighted, as these are the words that your child spelt incorrectly in a test of all 104 words before Christmas. This statutory list of words will be tested termly so please encourage and monitor your child's practising of these words.

Times tables/basic number facts

I have been delighted to see the children progressing with their times tables over the term and enjoying the Four Minute Challenge! These challenges are set on a Friday and due in on a Wednesday. Children that fail to complete this will be expected to attend Homework Club during their lunchtime. Times tables and basic skills provide the basis for the more complex maths work that we are doing in Year 5 and so it is crucial that these skills are mastered as soon as possible. Please keep up the practice at home!

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 25 th January	Ice skating trip
Wednesday 14 th February	Mid-year reports out to parents
Wednesday 14 th February	Whole school mass (Ash Wednesday)
Friday 16 th February	Teacher training day
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February	Half term holiday
Tuesday 27 th and Wednesday 28 th February	Open evening
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day
Monday 5 th – Wednesday 7 th March	Alton Castle residential*
Friday 16 th March	Saint Patrick's Day coffee morning**
Wednesday 28 th March	Year 5 class assembly
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of spring term

* Details regarding Alton Castle should have been received. The deposit is now due (via Sims Agora). If you are having any problems using this system, please see the office. Specific details regarding the trip (kit lists etc.) will be sent in due course.

** Year 5 will be organising and running this fabulous annual event. All parents/carers welcome. More details to follow.

We have had a brilliant first term in Year 5. The children have worked exceedingly hard, made lots of progress and have had loads of fun along the way! I am thoroughly looking forward to the upcoming term and cannot wait to get started! Make sure you keep up to date with our blog on the school website to see what we are getting up to in class!

Kind Regards,

L. Frearson J.McGinn