



St Edmund's RC Primary School

SPRING TERM 2022 Year 6 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a peaceful and happy Christmas break and that the children are refreshed, ready for the term ahead. Thank you so much for the Christmas cards and gifts, which were much appreciated.

Curriculum

The Spring term will be busy with lots of learning as we continue to prepare the children for their SATs tests in May. We are also very much looking forward to our PGL trip just before half term. We will be holding an online meeting about this trip very soon – details to follow.

We start the term with a mini-Art week, in which we will be focusing on the surrealists including Joan Miro. We will then be moving on to focus on our new topic – the mysterious Ancient Mayans. This unit will include the history of these fascinating people and the geography of their lands. We will learn about their number system, their calendars and their writing, as well as their cities and architecture. The Mayan people believed that chocolate was a gift from the gods, and so we will be learning more about this delicious substance, designing our own chocolate bars and attempting to persuade others to try them! Our art and design will be based around our Maya topic too.

In English we will be learning about Mayan myths and creation stories, with texts including the Hero Twins and Rain Player. We will learn more about the competitive Mayan ball game, Pok-ta-tok. We will be revising all forms of writing in preparation for SATs, as well as consolidating our knowledge of spelling and grammar and having lots of practice with reading comprehension.

In Maths we will continue to follow our medium-term plans to ensure that the children are confident to tackle any questions on the test and equipping them with a variety of mental and written methods. In Science we begin by learning about the human circulatory system and then investigate what makes a healthy lifestyle, looking at the effects of diet, exercise,

drugs and alcohol. Our second Science unit this term is about inheritance, evolution and adaptation.

Due to COVID we are still unable to organise school trips and visits, or to welcome visitors into school. We are grateful for your support and understanding and we all hope that these things will be able to resume as soon as possible. Year 6 have a session with the IMPS team on Friday 21st January, which will probably take place online now. This is the Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools, which aims to educate children to make safe choices and to know what to do in an emergency.

Homework

Thank you for your continuing support with homework. It is lovely to see the effort that most of the children are putting into their work, which is helping them to develop independent study habits that will be so important as they start secondary school. Homework will continue to be given out on Fridays and will be expected back in the following Wednesday. Please also encourage your child to do times tables practice on TTRS for 10 minutes or so each day. It is important to keep practising these tables regularly, gaining fluency and speed which will help with so much else in Maths.

Another very powerful way to help your child is by supporting them to develop a love of reading. Reading regularly will help your child with every subject. Children who read regularly at school and at home make the most progress so thank you so much for your support in this area. Please continue to encourage your child to read every day.

School Uniform and PE kit

Children are still expected to come to school in full uniform, except for Mondays when they should wear PE kit. If it is cold, they can wear a base layer under their school shirt for extra warmth as we have to keep the windows open at the moment whatever the weather. This base layer should be an addition to the school jumper or cardigan, not a replacement. Please also ensure that your child has a coat in school each day. All items of clothing must be clearly named – especially jumpers and cardigans which are easily mislaid.

As always, if you have queries, I am usually available after school for a quick chat. If you would prefer to arrange a meeting online to discuss anything at length, then please let me know via our class email or contact the school office.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy 2022,

Mrs Westhead