



Spring 2022 Newsletter

Sapphire, Topaz and Turquoise Classes

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Thank you so much for all the lovely Christmas cards and gifts that we have received from you and your child. Your generosity is very much appreciated and were enjoyed! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting Spring term with lots of fascinating learning opportunities. We believe that parents and teachers work best in partnership, so please come and talk to us about what your child is learning and how you might like to be involved in any way.

Curriculum

Maths

This term, we will be revising addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in more depth including, problem solving and reasoning. We will revise fractions and learn about decimals and percentages. We will also learn about time and how to convert units of time. We will learn about measurements: perimeter and area, as well as volume. Finally, we will learn about data handling.

English

This term, we continue with Talk for Writing to develop our skills in writing in different styles. Writing styles will include fiction (suspense and mystery) based on the T4W text: *Sandy Cove*, non-fiction writing and non-chronological reports such as letters, newspaper articles, diary entries and play scripts. Our focus in grammar will include sentence types, sentence structure, and the correct use of punctuation for effect. Children will continue to learn spellings each week including commonly misspelt words from the Y5/6 list. In *Destination Reader*, we will be studying a novel called 'Thief' by Malorie Blackman, and a selection of short stories from West Africa.

Science

This term, in Biology, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. Children will learn how to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect, a bird and describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Humanities (History & Geography)

We will continue to learn about Arabia and the origins of Early Islam. To continue our journey through early Islam, we will explore *The Round City of Baghdad*. In this unit, we will explore the rich history of the Arab Peninsula and its influence on the wider world, in terms of trade and cultural exchange.

How old is water? Where does water come from? What happens if you live in a place where there is not enough water? Through our topic, *Why is California so thirsty?* we will explore the importance of water for our survival on the planet as well as the current issues surrounding water sources and its distribution, around the world.

Enrichment (Art, French, Music & PE)

In art, we are using landscape images to develop drawing and painting skills through the study of key artists who have contributed to the genre. We will also develop our understanding of colour, pattern and shape through exploration of a variety of media and relevant artists. During our weekly French lessons, we will continue to correspond with our pen friends in Paris and look forward to receiving their New Year cards. We also hope to meet them over Zoom! The children will be writing letters about sports and hobbies they do after school and at weekends. They will also learn how to describe homes. In our weekly music lessons, we are finishing our study of music through the decades of the 20th Century and early 21st, and then covering some of the songs they have heard in small groups.

RE

In RE, our big question in Spring will be, 'What happens in churches during Lent and at Easter?' where we will study how, and why, church services, decorations and practices change through this period. We will be discussing the importance of Easter and its true meaning, reflecting on the question, 'Why is Easter such a magical time?' To link in with our history topic, we will learn about Islam as our world religion. During circle time in our PSHE sessions, we will discuss our feelings and emotions as well as exploring our dreams and goal for the year and further afield.

Homework

We are continuing to use J2e for homework tasks. Work will be set on a **Tuesday** and must be completed by the following **Monday**. Paper copies will be given to the children who do not have access to the use of computers/laptops or tablets. They are also welcome to work in classes during some of their **lunchtime** on a Monday or Tuesday for homework club to complete their work.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, plimsolls, and swimming kit etc.
- The children will be doing **PE** on **Tuesdays**.
- Please ensure that your child reads every day and do ask them about **what** they have read. The most important thing is that this is an enjoyable and valuable experience which will further support your child to develop a love of reading.
- We would like to remind parents that the school has a no jewellery policy, and earrings should be studs only, please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

Mobile phones

If your child needs a mobile phone, it must be clearly labelled, switched off before they enter the school premises, and handed in to the teacher for safe keeping during the day.

Key dates

- Monday 14th to Friday 18th February - half term
- Monday 21st February – children return to school
- Monday 7th to Friday 11th March – Parent Consultations (details to follow)
- Thursday 17th March – class photos
- Monday 4th to Monday 18th April – Easter holiday
- Tuesday 19th April – children return to school

*You can find the above dates and more on our calendar [here](#)

If there is anything that you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to talk to us before or after school, or make an appointment via the school office.

**Mrs Molloy, Mrs Vidic and Mr Jenkins
and the rest of the Year 5 team**