



Spring 2023 Newsletter

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. 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.

Curriculum

Maths

This term, we will be continuing our work on fractions and then revising addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in more depth including, problem solving and reasoning. We will learn about decimals and percentages.

English

This term, we continue with Talk for Writing to develop our skills in writing in different genres. 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 finish our work on Arabia and the Round City of Baghdad and the rich history of the Arab Peninsula and its influence on the wider world. In geography, we be learning about the effects of earthquakes and how humans live with earthquakes, for example how they adapt their homes and ensure their safety.

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 practise our speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. They will also learn how to describe homes, both where they are situated and what you might find inside them.

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.

In PE, we are resuming our weekly swimming lessons. In addition, we will be doing gymnastics, including using the apparatus and also learning dance routines. We will be playing handball, benchball and hockey to develop our ability to control the ball, pass, catch and find space as well as the crucial team work.

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 **Wednesday** 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 but the children should remember to arrange this with their teachers.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, plimsolls etc. We regularly end up with bundles of unnamed uniform or sports clothes, which are piling up in the lost property container.
- The children will be doing **PE** on **Fridays**. Children to wear their correct PE kit to school - this is a plain house coloured t-shirt, black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms and trainers.
- 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.
- Please do encourage and support your children to learn their **spellings and times tables regularly**, it is so much more beneficial to do this daily for a 15 minutes or so, than leaving it to the weekend.
- 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.
- If your child has long hair, please make sure it is tied back.
- Please also ensure that your child wears **black shoes** to school. If trainers, these must be completely black with no bright logos, flashing details or coloured laces/soles.
- Please send a named water bottle into school daily.
- 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

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the admin team.

- Tuesday 31st January: Turquoise Class Assembly @ 9.15am
- Tuesday 7th February: Topaz Class Assembly @ 9.15am
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February: half term - school closed
- Monday 20th February: children return to school
- March: Parent Consultations - details to follow
- Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day
- Thursday 9th March: When I Grow Up Day
- Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April: Easter holiday
- Monday 17th April: INSET day - school closed
- Tuesday 18th April: children return to school as usual

*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 Frohock, Mrs Vidic
and the rest of the Year 5 Team**