



St John's Primary School

St John's Road, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9AG Tel: 01491 837305 Email: office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

Friday 16th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe it is almost Christmas! Where has this term gone? We are already 1/3 of the way through Year 5! Yet again we have had a really busy term in Year 5. The children have produced some brilliant work within our 'Roman Around' topic including Roman myths, recounts following our trip to Chedworth Roman Villa and have begun creating 3D buildings on Google SketchUp on our new laptops! The children have also had a debate about which Roman ruling system was the most effective following some detailed research.

Next term our topic will be 'I will survive!' where we will be learning about different explorers such as Scott of the Antarctic, Ernest Shackleton, Christopher Columbus, Tim Peake as well as others. The topic will last until Easter to give us more time and opportunities to really find out about the explorers. We will be thinking about what skills these explorers needed to have and how their explorations developed. Some of them had tricky decisions to make along the way so we will also think about what we would have done if we were in their shoes. We will be studying the work of the artist Frances Hatch linked to Antarctica. Our Science work will have a few focuses including materials and their properties, thermals, insulators and conductors, space and our body systems. Please see the attached sheet to see what else we will be learning about!

Forest School:

We will be having Forest School in Term 3 so please ensure your child has full Forest School kit on a Friday. This must include long, warm trousers, a long sleeved top, suitable shoes/ wellies, waterproof coat and plenty of layers.

P.E:

It is best if the children bring their P.E. kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday as we may have to change P.E. days due to other events some weeks. As it is getting colder, please ensure they have jogging bottoms (blue, black or grey) and a sweatshirt (black or grey). Children with earrings will need to remove them independently for all PE sessions – a little container to keep them in would be useful on PE days!

Clarinets

Please encourage your child to practise the clarinet each week as they will then make greater progress within the sessions. A couple of reminders from Miss Swan: left hand at the top, lick the reed before playing, cover the holes of the relevant keys completely and press the magic button when assembling and disassembling the clarinets. (This should make sense to the children, however, please remind them of these). It is the children's responsibility to make sure they have their clarinets on Monday – we have only had 3 sessions this year where they have all had their instruments! We will be having a mini 'concert' at some point next term so please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for the date.

Homework reminder:

- 1) Each child has a **Reading Journal** which they will need to have in school every day. At the back of the journal there is space to record the reading your child does. I would like each child to record their reading at least FIVE times each week (not including the reading they record in school). In addition, the children should choose 1 activity a week from the homework sheet and complete it in their reading journal.



- 2) Each child will be set tasks to help them practise the **Maths skills** we have been learning in class using the 'MyMaths' online resource. Please let me know if, for any reason, your child cannot access these tasks from home. There will also be Speed Maths homework where the children will be working on quick recall of different information and calculations e.g. multiplication facts and number bonds (Coming home from next term)
- 3) There is an increased focus on spelling in the new curriculum which we will be looking at in class. Please encourage your children to learn their spellings, which will usually be on a weekly basis. (Coming home from next term)
- 4) For a few of the topics during the year there will be a more **open ended, creative task** to complete, usually related to our topic work. More details to follow.

Helping Out in Year 5

Thank you to the parents who have helped our with recent trips such as Chedworth Roman Villa, library visit, Hairspray and also to Emma Richardson for coming in weekly to listen to the children read. I really do appreciate all of your help! If anyone else is able to help out, please let me know! Any help gratefully received! Please do not feel you have to come in every week if you volunteer, just turn up as and when you can and we will allocate you children to listen to. We also need occasional help when we go out on local trips. Please come and speak to us if you can help – we really do appreciate it!

Term 3 Y5 dates:

3rd January 2017 –INSET day

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns or send us an email via the 'office' email account – office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Colbourne (Class teacher) and Mrs Perry (Class teaching assistant)

(Year 5 Team)

