



# TERM 5

**WELCOME TO TERM 5 IN YEAR 2. WE HAVE A VERY BUSY TERM AHEAD WHICH WILL BE A HIVE OF ACTIVITY. WE ARE INCREDIBLY EXCITED TO SEE WHERE THE CHILDREN'S IDEAS AND THINKING TAKES THEM AS WE BECOME ARTISTS, POETS, BOTANISTS, ANALYSTS AND MATHEMATICIANS TO EMBARK ON YET MORE ADVENTURES IN OUR LEARNING.**

## English:

The children have been working really hard on developing their writing skills. We continue to remind them of the importance of using capital letters and punctuation such as full stops, exclamation marks and question marks. The children have also been working on using conjunctions (such as: and, but, so or because) to extend their sentences and should continue to do so. We will be using our skills to write instructions linked to science and also some Earth Day inspired poetry. We also include grammar teaching or activities each day to help the children master their knowledge of terminology and application.

**Maths:** We are starting the term by finishing our work on multiplication and division before then looking at fractions. It is really helpful to reinforce this at home. Perhaps you could discuss cutting a sandwich into halves or quarters (and how the pieces must be equal), or ask your child to divide a quantity of grapes, pens or toys into halves or quarters. They can then use this practical scenario to find  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an amount. A really interesting challenge could be to investigate how they can prove that  $\frac{2}{4}$  is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$  or to work out  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an amount!

We will continue to embed our arithmetic skills daily and develop our speed at calculations involving  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $\times$  and  $\div$ .

**Whole Class Reading:** Thank you so much for your support with the children's reading at home. We are so proud of the progress they are making in their discussions around a text.

If you are reading at home then you could try practising the following areas of skill:

Retrieval - "What colour is the boy's scarf? How many balls are there? What time of day is it?"

Vocabulary - "Can you spot a word which means the same as ...? What do you think the word ... means? How can we use the rest of the sentence to help us work this out?"

Inference - "Why was he feeling sad? How do you know it is summer?"

## KS1 SATs

As most of you are aware, the children will be completing their KS1 SATs this term. This will involve them doing papers for arithmetic, maths reasoning, SPaG and reading.

We are aiming to do these in weeks 3, 4 & 5 of this term in a very non pressurised way for the children so that we can give them the best chances of showing off their knowledge without feeling daunted or apprehensive. **Our primary concern is of course their wellbeing.**

In class we are referring to these as "special questions" rather than tests and emphasising to the children that they are designed to show us where in their learning they are really comfortable and where they would like some future consolidation or support.

We will provide some further information and updates via email.

## Science: Plants

We are continuing our learning about plants this term. So far we have set up our germination experiment (have you spotted this on the classroom windows?) and of course the children brought home their eco friendly potted sunflower seeds at Easter.



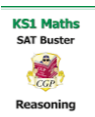
Please do let us know how they are growing. As well as observing these ongoing studies, we will also be setting up a further experiment to see what happens if a plant doesn't have the right requirements for growth.

One of our poor bulbs will be trying to grow in the cupboard without any light and another one will not be receiving any water. What do you think will happen? We will also learn about the life cycle of a plant.

## Just a note:

Please remember that PE is scheduled for **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** for both classes. Please remember to tie long hair back and earrings should be removed at home if they cannot do so themselves.

Homework is sent out on a Friday and is due back by the following **Wednesday** so that we have time to mark it. We are really pleased with the children's grasp of their new homework work books so far. Remember we will let you know which pages of which book each week so that the homework is directly supporting our work in class.



## As if that wasn't enough...

For our RE lessons this term, we are focusing on Judaism and the idea of the covenant. We will start by exploring what it means to make an agreement and then use hands on exploratory activities to embed our understanding and allow us to apply our ideas.



For geography we are going to be taking a closer look at the weather and comparing it to that in a non European locality, Jamaica! (This will be a link to our future learning about Mary Seacole.) Children will learn about basic climate zones and the conditions in cold, hot and temperate climate zones. Children will learn about weather forecasts and the symbols used to display weather conditions. Children will learn about various weather instruments before collecting and recording weather data from the school grounds. Children will analyse the collected data and evaluate the fieldwork they have carried out.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments at all please do not hesitate to let us know through the homework diaries, or by making an appointment via the office.

**Thank you from the Year 2 team.**