



STJB Holly Class

Coming together with the Commonwealth

Spring 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

Another year starts and another exciting topic lays ahead. Key Stage 2 are studying the Commonwealth, with Holly class focussing on Kenya. We will be looking at the geography and history of this country and how it compares to Great Britain.

In English, during the first half of the term, we will be writing information theme sheets based on facts about Kenya. We will then look at writing stories and poems.

During this term, the children in Year 5 of Holly and Oak class will complete a long term homework project on another country of the Commonwealth—more details to follow.

In Maths, we will continue to learn about multiplication and division and applying these in a variety of real life contexts. We will then move on to learning about fractions and decimals and measurement of area and volume. The Maths Planet challenges will continue to be a major part of supporting the children's mental strategies and we will be applying these to more formal arithmetic and problem solving activities.

Our Science project will be about states of matter and changing state including reversible and irreversible changes. They will be consolidating how to plan and carry out investigations. Mrs Pollard will be teaching science on Fridays.

Homework: Spelling—Children will have new spellings every week. They have a task for each week Monday to Friday in their homework book. This is also on the school website. Please check and sign your child's spelling work each evening.

Reading—the children are expected to read (with an adult wherever possible) 5 times a week. Please sign and make comments in their yellow reading record book to acknowledge that this has been completed.

Maths Planets challenge—The children will be expected to learn their Planet Challenge ready for a weekly test. I have continued to see a great improvement with many children in their mental maths ability. This is primarily due to the hard work they are putting into learning their tables at home. Thank you for your support.

I hope the children enjoy the above curriculum, which provides the vehicle for many learning skills, knowledge and concepts. If you have any questions or queries about anything that would further help your child, then please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school so we can talk together. Thank you Mr. John Cumming

In Computing, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding of the Microsoft programs, including Word, Publisher and Excel, with opportunities for learning programming using Kodu and Scratch.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Holly class will be taking part in science activities related to Gardening. (Please see additional letter sent home on Thursday 4th January)

During PE, the children will be developing skills in a variety of invasion and net and wall games. Holly class will also extend their country and maypole dancing talents in preparation for the Revels in June.

The children should have their full P.E. kit in at all times, but always on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

In R.E. along with the rest of the school, we will also looking at Judaism, focussing on the character of Moses, looking at the events in his life and his relationship with God. The second half of term, and building up to Easter, the children will be looking at the question, 'What did Jesus do to save humans?'

Italian, taught by Francesco, will continue on a Monday afternoon.

In Art, we will look at Kenyan artists, where the children will consider the techniques, colours and symbolism that they have used and replicate this in their own work. The children will continue to work in Talk Partners to improve their independence and collaboration skills. This is just an outline of the work Holly Class will be exploring this term.