



STJB Oak Class

Coming together with the Commonwealth

Spring 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Another year starts and another exciting topic lays ahead. Key stage 2 are studying the Commonwealth, with Oak class focussing on Australia. 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 short stories based on Australia's history, from the points of view of two characters. In the second half term, we will continue to present information about Australia in a variety of genres.

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

In Maths, we will continue with fractions, before moving onto decimals and percentages, applying these in a variety of real life contexts. We will also be learning geometry, including quadrants, reflections and translations. The Maths Planets scheme will continue to be a major part of supporting the children's mental maths strategies and we will be applying these to more formal arithmetic and problem solving contexts.

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 Lax will be teaching science on Tuesday afternoons.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this term. In Oak class, we continue to work in Talk Partners for the majority of our lessons and tasks, which should develop the children's independence and confidence.

Spellings— These should be practised daily, using the spelling timetable as a guide for the activities. If an activity does not fit the spelling list, any other activity can be completed. The spelling and the activity list are on our website although the spelling list may sometimes change as we focus on any mis-spellings that repeatedly rear their ugly heads .

Reading—The children should read everyday (hopefully for pleasure), and even in year 5 and 6, there is a great benefit in reading, sharing and discussing a text with an adult.

Project- During the year, the children will be set a project over 8-10 weeks based on the topic of that term. This is to help children prepare for secondary school with organisation and time management.

The children may get additional homework if they have not completed their tasks in the appropriate time in class.

In Computing, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding of the Microsoft programs, including Word, Publisher and Excel.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Oak class will be taking part in the Ask-It (P4C), when we will be developing our understanding of philosophical enquiry. The children will hone their questioning, discussion, and justification skills.

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

In R.E. the class will be studying incarnation, following on from the Christmas story. Along with the rest of the school, we will also looking at Judaism and the similarities and differences with Christianity. We will focus on key Jewish beliefs, Passover, Shabbat, the synagogue and how the Jewish faith has developed during and since the Holocaust.

In art, we will look at Australian art—particularly aboriginal art, where the children will consider the history and symbolism of this artwork.

After the February half term, the year 5s will work alongside Holly class for part of the week, whilst year 6 take part in booster sessions in preparation for their National Curriculum Tests.

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