



St James Class Newsletter

Spring Term 2022



Key events to look forward to this term.

English – Reading & Spelling

Much Ado About Nothing: For our first half term, the whole school English focus will be centred on learning about the Shakespeare play, Much Ado About Nothing – we will explore the plot, the characters, and ways it can be performed. In addition, children will participate in a wide variety of writing opportunities. We are especially excited that St James class will be participating in a collaborative project with the Royal Shakespeare Company and a number of other local schools to create a performance of the play. Therefore, drama activities will play an important role in our weekly learning as the children explore the scenes they will be performing.

We expect the children to be reading at home five times a week, where possible to an adult. We request that each time your child reads, they record this in their reading diary with a short summary of the content they have read. Reading diaries will be checked each week and children may be rewarded with house points for their team for reading and recording.

New spelling words will be issued every Friday and tested on the following Friday. Please support your child in learning these spellings each week. We can help with inventive ideas for revision if you wish.

English – Writing, handwriting, grammar and punctuation

The children will continue to develop their joined writing, developing their own legible style of handwriting. We will be developing the children's higher-level punctuation and grammar skills in our English lessons. These skills will also be practiced as part of the children's homework 'diet' of activities.

Maths

The children will be focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages this term. They will continue to develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills, solve multi step problems and have daily arithmetic sessions to start each morning.

Science

We will be learning about different materials, their uses and their properties, as well as exploring dissolving, separating mixtures and irreversible changes. The children will sort and classify objects according to their properties; explore the properties of materials to find the most suitable material for different purposes. They will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate thermal insulators and electrical conductors, making

predictions and forming conclusions. They will also learn about irreversible changes. children will present their findings using accurate scientific language.

Other Curriculum Subjects

Our topic is: **A Local Study of Bishops Itchington to answer the inquiry question “Why is Bishops Itchington here rather than over there?”**

History/ Geography: The children will be learning about the history of key buildings; their origins, purpose and impact on the lives of people in the village. They will investigate why the village is situated in this location, how it has changed and developed over time, making links to prior learning about the Industrial Revolution. They will identify and explore the lives of significant people who lived in and shaped the village. As geographers, children will be learning more about the location of the village, the geographical features of the quarry which determined the location of the village and the development of industry in the local area; they will develop map reading skills including use of the 6-digit referencing of Ordnance Survey maps and learning to draw scale maps.

RE & PSHE: In PSHE we will be using our Jigsaw program and looking at ‘Celebrating difference and Dreams and Goals’. In RE, we will be exploring the question: What would Jesus do? and Can we live by the values of Jesus in the 21st century?

PE: Children will need to bring in their **clean, named PE kits in each Tuesday and Thursday**. For the time being, PE kits should continue to be worn into school on PE days.

Art & Design: Children will be studying the artwork of Lowry, famous for his emotive representations of his local area, its people and its industry. Children will learn about this emotive artist and draw inspiration to create their own sketches and paintings of Bishops Itchington.

Design & Technology: Making links to the Local Study topic (including ‘Dig for Victory’ origins of allotments) children will explore seasonality to know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown and used to develop nutritional dishes. They will identify crops in season; design their own soup recipe which they will then make by using a range of chopping, dicing, slicing and grating skills.

Music: This term we will be learning to appraise, sing, compose and play instruments through the stimulus specific songs.

Computing: Children will continue to develop skills as they use a range of computer applications eg. Word and PowerPoint within the context of topic work and will use digital platforms to create short films and presentations.

Homework

English – given out on Fridays; to be handed in on **Wednesday**

Maths – given out on Friday; to be handed in on **Friday**

Spelling – given out on Friday; spelling test the following **Friday**

Reading – at least **5 times a week** and recorded in reading records books.

If you do have any concerns, please do speak to us about any matter, however small. We are also contactable on SeeSaw so please make sure you have a SeeSaw account for St James class.

Mrs Paul and Miss Baxter

