



## *English – Reading, Writing & Spelling*

The main text for this term is 'Goodnight Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian. A book about a young boy 'Willie Beech' who is evacuated from his home in London to a new life in the countryside. We will use the book to develop reading skills as well as a stimulus for writing. Children will be writing diary entries, letters, character descriptions and comparisons, a non-chronological report, and a biography. In the second half term, we will be studying poetry linked to Remembrance Day and children will be given the opportunity to compose their own poem. We will also be looking at the structure of 'flashback' stories and children will work on writing their own short 'flashback' story.

Our writing each week will include learning and using weekly spelling words in context within their own compositions. Learning their spellings is an element of the children's weekly homework.

## *Maths*

The units for the Autumn Term include place value, the four operations and fractions. There will be a daily arithmetic session in which children will practice and rehearse number facts and calculations. It is vitally important that children know all their times tables so that they can re-call them with speed and accuracy. We will, of course, work on this at school but any support that you can give at home would be greatly appreciated. 'Hit the Button' (Free if you type into google) is great for practicing tables individually and 'TT Rockstars' is good for building speed and accuracy.

## *Science*

In the first half term, we will be completing a unit on Earth and Space. There will be a focus on naming the planets in our solar system, how planets rotate and orbit, day and night and phases of the moon. In the second half term, our unit will be on Forces in which children will explore the forces of gravity, water and air resistance and push/pull effects.

## *Other Curriculum Subjects*

Our topic is: WW2 'The Home Front'

**In History**, we will explore some of the causes that led to the outbreak of WW2. Children will learn about the Allied and Axis powers and some important key figures that drove these. The main focus will be the on the Home Front and how everyday life changed during the war. Children will learn about evacuation, bombing raids (including the 1940 raid on Coventry), rationing, propaganda campaigns, the Home Guard and the change in role of women during the war.

**In Geography**, children will use atlases to locate countries involved in the war. They will locate countries that formed the Allied and Axis Powers as well as countries that were invaded by German Forces.

Children will also look at maps of the UK to identify cities that were heavily bombed during the war, reasons why these were targeted and locations that children were evacuated to.

**RE:** This year, St James' RE will focus on the Islamic faith. Children will learn about the origins of Islam and Islamic creation stories. They will draw comparisons predominantly with the Christian faith and other world religions.

**PSHE:** We will begin with a unit on 'protective behaviours' so that children are clear about how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they feel unsafe. We will then move onto our Jigsaw PSHE unit Being Me in my world; in this, children explore what being a citizen is, responsibilities and rewards and consequences.

**PE:** St James will have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. PE will be outdoors so children will need clothing that is appropriate for this. The first half term will be cross country and hockey. The second half term will be team invasion games.

**Art & Design:** Children will be exploring the work of famous artist and sculptor Henry Moore. Focusing on the work he produced during the war. Children will create pastel sketches as well as their own sculptures in the style of Henry Moore.

**Design & Technology:** In Autumn 2 Children will be learning about the bread making process and the importance of bread during the war years. Children will test different types of bread and then go onto make their own WW2 style bread.

**Computing:** Children will continue to develop their awareness of internet safety and work on creating spreadsheets on Excel linked to rationing during and after the war.

**Music:** Children will be working on songs from musicals with Mrs Saunders. They will develop their performance skills and work towards an end of term musical celebration – further details to follow!

## *Homework*

**Reading** – 5 times a week is the expectation. Please encourage children to keep a record of this in their reading diaries. Even though the children can read independently, research has shown that reading to an adult, with lots of discussion, is very beneficial ie the meaning of new or unfamiliar vocabulary; characters, plots and predicting what may happen further on in the story.

**Spellings** will be set on Fridays and will be tested the following Friday.

**Maths** homework will be set on Fridays and should be returned by Thursday.

**English** homework will also be set on Fridays and returned on or before Thursday.

*If you do have any worries or concerns, please do speak to us. You can make an appointment via the school office or contact us on Seesaw. Many thanks.*

The Year 5 Team

***Mrs Paul and Mrs Abbott***