



BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

PART OF STOWE VALLEY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

St James Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026



English – Reading, Writing & Spelling

The main text for this term is 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll – a novel that links to WWII. 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 dialogue. We will be studying poetry linked to Remembrance Day as well as William Shakespeare's Macbeth with the children being given the opportunity to compose their own poems. We will also write news reports linked to the Coventry blitz and the book 'Tuesday' By David Weisner.

Spellings will be taught and set on a Monday and then practised throughout the week. We encourage children to practise them at home also as they will be demonstrating their learning through dictation. Spellings will be posted on Spelling Shed so that you can help support with this.

Maths

The units for the Autumn Term include place value, addition and subtraction, negative numbers and fractions. Mrs Paul will be teaching the first unit on multiplication and division and then move onto position and movement. There will be a daily arithmetic session in which children will practise and rehearse number facts and calculations. It is vitally important that children know all their times tables so that they can recall 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 practising 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 Characteristics of materials. In this unit we will be looking at properties of materials, thermal and electrical insulators and conductors, dissolving, separating mixtures and reversible and irreversible changes.

In the second half term, we will be completing a unit on Forces focusing on Gravity, Air resistance, Water resistance and famous Scientists inc. Sir Isaac Newton.

Throughout our Science topics we will also look at the impact of famous scientists within the topics taught.

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 the 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 and their impact on communities and infrastructure with a specific focus on 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 and locations of places where children were evacuated to.

RE: Children will focus on the theme of peace and reconciliation as they explore the key question 'How did the world heal after the conflict of World War Two? This will incorporate aspects of history, theology and social science through discussions, debates and a range of other activities.

PSHE: We will begin with discussing rights of the child linked to the UN Rights of the child and how six of these articles are the basis for our school rules. These will then help establish the rules and routines for the year ahead. We will also complete a unit using the 'Protective Behaviours' scheme which is built upon every year. This is so that children are clear about how to keep themselves safe and know what to do if they feel unsafe.

PE: Mrs Daly will be teaching Outdoor PE on Mondays. This term the focuses will be: Cross Country and Hockey.

I will be teaching Indoor PE on Fridays. For the first term I will be teaching Gymnastics focusing on jumps and leaps and creating short routines. Second term will be Dance, with a plan on teaching the children how to do the Lambeth Walk, Lindy Hop and Waltz!

Art & Design: Children will be exploring the work of famous artist and sculptor Henry Moore, focusing on the sketches he produced during the war. Children will create pastel sketches in the style of Henry Moore and then create their own sculptures inspired by their work.

Design & Technology: For this term we will be looking at strong structures and electrical circuits. Children will be making lanterns and getting them to light up.

Computing: This term children will start by learning about computer systems and networks; learning how to recognise IT systems in the world and how some can enable searching on the internet. After this short unit, children will revise the main features of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, whilst adding some new features to their list of skills. After half term, they will be introduced to vector graphics, where they will learn to create images in a drawing program by using layers and groups of objects.

Music: Excitingly, this year, Year 5 will be having the Warwickshire Music Service coming in every week to teach the children a progression of skills in playing the violin.

Spanish: This term, Year 5 will begin learning a second foreign language, Spanish, with Mrs Paul on Mondays. Whilst the key focus will be on learning to read, say and write across themes in Spanish, there will also be some aspects of intercultural understanding eg. geography of Spain; Spanish traditions and festivals etc. Children, this term, will learn the alphabet, pronunciation, where and how to read and spell words with accents as they develop vocabulary for greetings, days of the week, months of the year, numbers, birthdays and introductory conversations.

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, it would be greatly beneficial if you could still read with your child, weekly, with lots of discussion around the meaning of new or unfamiliar vocabulary.

Spelling – Spellings will be set by Mrs Paul on Mondays on Spelling Shed.

Maths – Times table practise! Times Table practise! Times Table practise!

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

The Year 5 Team

Mrs Saunders, Mrs Paul, Mrs Cartwright and Mrs Abbott

