



*'Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope.'*

## Spring Term in Year 5

Welcome back to school, we wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break!

If you would like to see the wonderful work we do each week, please do visit our class page on the school website: <https://www.stthomasacademy.co.uk/class-pages/>. Information about our foci in different subjects as well as 'Reading for Pleasure' is also found here. Following @StThomasBoston on Twitter will also keep you up to date with all the latest school information, as well as @MrsCyear5 and @MrsLAusten for individual class information and pictures.

How important were the docks in Boston's past?

Our Spring Term centres around this intriguing question. In order to find answers, we must go back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century! In History we will learn about the role Boston's port has played in its past wealth - did you know that Boston was second only to London in importance in the 13<sup>th</sup> century? As part of this learning, we hope to develop the children's understanding of the legacy of the past in their own locality by taking them for a Historic Tour around Boston - more details to follow! Our geographical focus will be comparing a region of North America to the UK. We intend to explore human features, types of settlement and land use and economic activity including trade links.



After half-term our focus changes from North to South America, for this we will focus upon trade and economy.



**Young Leaders** This term sees the introduction of our Young Leaders Award, run by the Archbishop of York Trust. This is a very exciting opportunity for our children to develop teamwork and leadership skills, while learning how to make a difference to their community, consider the importance of serving others and act to "Be the change you want to see". As part of their personal challenge, the children already have Archie's challenge grid in their homework books, we ask that you support them in completing at least two of these challenges each week please. If you would like more information, please either speak to the Year 5 team, or visit <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award>

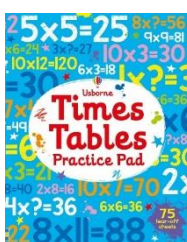


**Bikeability** We would like to remind anyone who signed up for Bikeability that this will take place week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> March. Children taking part will need to bring their own bike to school. More information will be sent nearer the time.



**Homework** is important and we expect every child to complete it and hand it in on time. It helps consolidate learning and build up your child's confidence. Homework will be set every Friday and should be completed and handed in by Wednesday the following week. If you have any concerns with this, please see your class teacher.

**Spellings** will be given out on Friday and tested the following Friday. We advise children use a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check approach as set out on the spelling sheet. Other ways to help children learn include chanting the letters, finding words within words, and circling the letter combinations they find tricky. This makes the learning more exciting and memorable.



**Times tables** In Year Five, we expect children to already know ALL of their times tables. Please help your child by practising with them (chant, practise online games like Hit the Button, make them answer ten questions before they are allowed on their tablets...). If they do know them, brilliant - the next step is how quickly they can recall them so practise speed next!

**Reading Books** We encourage all children to read for pleasure and we don't want children (or parents!) to see it as a chore. However, reading is a basic life skill that children must develop. If your child does not want to read at home, please speak to the Year 5 team for support.

Reading Records must be in school **daily**. This is the record we use to track the books they choose, how many and how often they read. Therefore, it is very important that you sign your child's Reading Record every time you read with them or see them read please. It would be very helpful if you ask them questions to make sure they have understood the text. Many children are saying the words but are unable to answer questions about text, showing they have not taken in the meaning.



Diversity class (5A) and Tolerance class (5C) are reading *The Explorer*, by Katherine Rundell as their class text.

**PE KIT** must be in school daily- we have PE on Mondays but we may take the opportunity to get active at any time! Swimming will be every Wednesday until Easter.

Any jewellery, including earrings, must be removed, and long hair tied back please.

Many parents have asked how they can help their children learn at home, so here are some websites that provide practise in key skills. A great way of supporting your child's learning (and a fun one) is to play online games with them.

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/> Mainly Maths, English and Science games and interactive activities. This site is also a great help with homework and key History and Geography facts for independent research.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/> Age appropriate, subject specific activities, revision activities, games, worksheets and experiments.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16> A great site for Maths games, perfect for revision.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> Hit the Button is a fun way of practising times tables, please encourage your children to use this!

Please do speak to any of the Year 5 team if you have ideas, questions or concerns about your child. We are always interested in activities children take part in outside of school, so it would be lovely to see any certificates or awards your child receives.

# Curriculum Overview -Spring Term

## Art

We will the work of Banksy and Rousseau this term, comparing their works and the ways this art and these artists were viewed and treated in their lifetimes.

## English

This term will focus on persuasive writing and emotive language, through leaflets and advertisements. Spelling, punctuation and grammar continue to be a daily focus. We have new learning in grammar to look forward to – modal verbs will be coming up soon!

## Science

This term revolves around properties of materials so means some practical investigations! Reversible and irreversible changes will be tested, as well as dissolving and separating substances.

## Computing

In Computing we will use Crumble to design, write and debug programmes and develop understanding of how algorithms work through creating a character and having it follow commands.

## **How important were the docks in Boston's past?**

## History

Studying the fascinating story of the Pilgrim Fathers and how Boston USA is connected to our own Boston leads to understanding how the docks played an important part in Boston's past. We are looking forward to an informative and exciting Historical Tour at the end of this month.

## R.E

We continue to learn about the 'big story' as portrayed by the frieze in our classroom. The Incarnation and the Salvation will be considered in the context of the question 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?'

## Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will learn to calculate perimeter and area, then how to multiply up to 4 digits by 1 or 2 digit numbers. For both of these areas of Maths, times tables knowledge is vital! Children who do not know their tables really struggle with this, please make sure your children practise.

## P.E.

Swimming – we are impressed with the enthusiasm all the children have already shown for swimming, each week they make progress and it is wonderful to see how much their confidence grows! The children also have the chance to improve their balance and strength as they practise gymnastics on Mondays.

## Music

In music, we will be learning to play the recorder, focusing on playing specific notes building up to composing a short piece.

## French

Memorising rhymes and songs, asking and answering questions, reading to understand words and phrases are some of the activities we will be using this term to improve our French.

## PSHE

This term our PSHE focuses on mental and physical safety and wellbeing. Sun-safety, medicines, vaccinations and hygiene are covered. Next term we move on to how personal identities are formed.

## Geography

We focus first on North America, the states of the USA, then cities and landmarks on the continent. We move to South America in Term 4, focusing on tourism and the different countries.

be **STRONG & COURAGEOUS**  
do not be afraid  
or **TROUBLED**  
The **YOUR GOD**  
Lord is with you  
**WHEREVER** you go  
Joshua 1:9