

Spring Term in Year 5



'Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope.'

Welcome back to school, we wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break! We do hope that Christmas was a time of fun, relaxation and quality family time. For us, we enjoyed spending time with our families and enjoying all the Christmas festivities. We also spent some time reading some new children's books that we thought the children in school would enjoy. These books will be recommended and available to borrow from our classroom reading corners so you can continue reading for pleasure. We will be continuing to encourage the children to read and discuss books (fiction and non-fiction) regularly so that they understand the pleasure you can gain from it. The Explorer is our next focus text in our Reading lessons and is written by the fantastic Katherine Rundell, who we saw speak earlier in Year 5 at The Engine Shed in Lincoln. We hope that this will bring the text more to life for the pupils as they know some of the adventures she went on as research for writing the book.

Remember to regularly visit our class webpages to see the wonderful work we do each week at <https://www.stthomasacademy.co.uk/class-pages-1/>. Information about our foci in different subjects as well as 'Reading for Pleasure' is also found here. Following @StThomasBoston on X- formerly Twitter- will also keep you up to date with all the latest school information and @Mrs.SmithStT to follow Mrs Smith and all things related to school and reading of course!

Our Spring Term has intriguing Big Questions and learning. 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 13th 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.



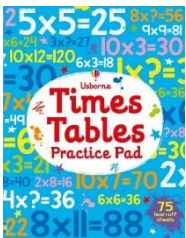
After half-term our focus changes from North to South America - in this learning we will focus upon trade and economy.

Bikeability We would like to remind anyone who signed up for Bikeability that this will take place week commencing 31st March. Children taking part will need to bring their own bike and helmet to school. If you have not yet signed up, please visit the school office.



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. The projects that came into school last term, linked to our learning about space, were quite literally out of this world! Well done to everyone who completed some of the tasks and the support they received from parents and carers at home.

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. As part of our teaching, we will have discussed ways of learning particularly tricky words.



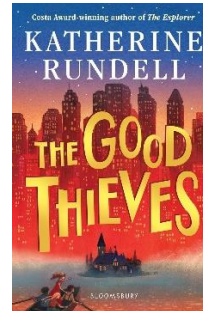
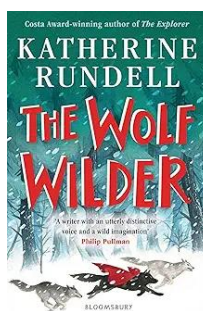
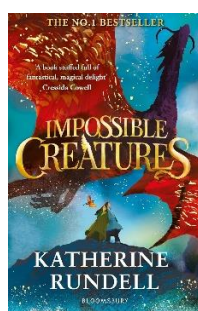
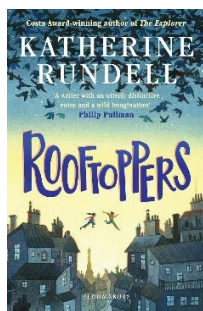
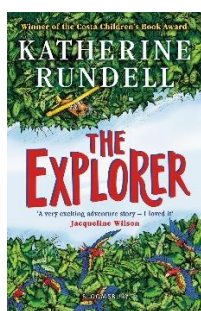
Times tables In Year Five, we expect children to already know ALL of their times tables. Please help your child by practising with them (chant, practise online games like Hit the Button, make them answer ten questions before they are allowed on their tablets...). If they do know them, brilliant – the next step is to learn the associated division facts. Multiplication facts are so important for further learning in maths, for example in our learning about fractions.

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 and Tolerance class are reading *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell as their class text. She has also written numerous other texts which may interest your children.



PE KIT must be in school daily- we have PE on Thursdays, 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.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.

Recommended Reads!



Curriculum Overview -Spring Term

Art

We will study the work of Banksy and Rousseau this term, comparing their painting styles and the ways their art and the 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 – bullet points 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 too.

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 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 – will take place every Wednesday and will focus on children learning to swim 25m confidently and how to keep themselves safe in water. Gymnastics- The children also have the chance to improve their balance and strength as they practise gymnastics on Thursdays.

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.

French

We will have a focus on French towns this term, learning about the similarities and differences between their towns and the towns we are used to here.

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.

