

MFL

Provision continues to be provided by the Spanish teaching specialists from Cambourne Village College. The children will consolidate their understanding of grammatical terms and develop language for musical instruments and genres.

Art

Using clay the children will work together to recreate the famous Terracotta Army. The unit will include drawing and the development of sketch work in their own booklets before turning these ideas into 3D works of art.

Music

The song 'Dancing in the street' by Martha and the Vandellas will be the focus of our music learning this half term. The children will benefit from an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music, singing, and playing instruments are all linked.

Computing

The unit of work on concept maps uses the Purple Mash application 2Connect. Children will learn the basics of concept mapping, by generating, visualising and connecting ideas and thoughts, both individually and in small groups.

English

The children will use 'Lao Lo of Dragon Mountain' by Margaret Bateson-Hill to explore Chinese folklore and come up with their own stories inspired by this. They will also write a poem based on the four elements (as discussed in the story). Non-fiction writing will be in the form of a persuasive text and newspaper report based on their learning in geography.

Maths

We will continue to utilise the fantastic resource 'Power Maths' this half term, which the children have taken to really well. Topics covered will include: further work on fractions; multiplication and division; area and perimeter. Prior learning and times tables will be consolidated at the start of every maths lessons.

Science

In this module children build on earlier work from Year 3, where they learnt about the life cycles of plants. They will extend their understanding of what a life cycle is; learn about the life cycles of some indigenous Chinese mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. We will compare and contrast different life cycles, identifying common features as well as explaining key differences.

Geography

The classes will be immersed in this informative geography topic on China. They will first find out about its location and explore its many diverse physical features. They will learn about China's economic growth and the effect this has had on the people and the land. Finally, they will explore the famous attractions and culture of this magnificent country.

A CHINESE ODYSSEY: Year 5 – Spring 1

Cooking

As part of the Design Technology expectations from the National Curriculum, this term the children will make and taste a traditional Chinese noodle based meal. In conjunction with the school's healthy eating ethos, the children will be tasked with making this a healthy meal.

RE

Our focus for RE this half term will be comparing Christianity with a variety of other faiths. The children will learn to objectively compare different faiths and will try and answer some big questions including: Religious belief – how do you know it's true?

PSHE

In the diversity and communities unit the children will develop their sense of personal identity and self-worth, and learn to consider and respect the needs and views of others. They will consider the ethnic make-up of the local community and the benefits of living in a diverse society.

PE

The children will get to study the ancient form of Tai Chi and its promotion of positive thinking through sport, as part of the indoor PE curriculum, and will complete an outdoor PE unit on football, focusing on ball skills and teamwork.

Lacerta Class & Phoenix Class

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and that the children are looking forward to a fun and productive first half-term of 2020 when they return. We will be available at the classroom door at the beginning and end of the school day if you need to speak to us or have any concerns. If you have any queries at any point during the year, please do not hesitate to contact us or make an appointment to meet Miss Madden or Mr Frame.

Homework

As you know, homework for English and Maths is set every Monday. Homework grids are stuck in the beige and pink homework books and they are to be returned by the following Monday. The children are able to choose from a range of activities from the grids and are required to complete at least one a week, with at least one from each row completed by half term. We will continue to set online maths activities on www.mathletics.co.uk to consolidate learning at school and some children are now also using www.whizz.com. For any children that don't have internet access at home, we will ensure they have an opportunity to complete any online tasks at school.

Reading continues to be a big focus for the school. The requirement for Year 5 is that the children read for at least 15 minutes per day, which should equate to at least 70 pages per week. Their reading records need to be in school every day and will be checked on a weekly basis. In the event a child does not have their reading record or if they have not met the requirements set out above, they will need to complete this in their own time. Please sign the reading record to indicate when and how much they have read at home.

The children have been told to approach us before Thursday if they are having problems with any part of their homework. Please feel free to write comments in your child's book as to how you feel they coped with the tasks set.

Spellings will be set on Monday each week and will be tested on Friday. We will include a spelling sheet with homework which will have their spelling words along with ideas for how to practise learning them.

Ways in which you can help your child:

- * Check homework books and support your child in completing their homework.
- * Regularly read with your child and discuss their books with them, including asking lots of questions to ensure they have a good understanding of what they are reading.
- * Test your child on their spellings and the times tables they are working on (if any).
- * Encourage your child to visit www.mathletics.co.uk or www.whizz.com to work on their maths.

For the avoidance of doubt, the KS2 homework requirements are as stated on the homework grid.

PE

Children must have their correct PE kit in school at all times. To avoid unnecessary delays please ensure that your child brings their PE kit to school on Monday and that it is taken home to be washed as necessary. Children will need **both indoor kit** (blue shorts and a white T shirt) **and outdoor kit** (jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt, a separate white T shirt and sensible, supportive training shoes) throughout the term. PE kit must be named in order to avoid a large amount of lost property. Children will only be excused from PE on medical grounds if a letter is received from the parent/carer.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Friday 3 rd January	INSET day (school closed to children)
Monday 6 th January	Children return to school
Monday 10 th February	KS2 Reading evening
Friday 14 th February	Last day of term
Monday 24 th February	Children return to school