

November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Class 5! I hope you have been able to make the most of the half time holiday in the current circumstances and that you are all fit and well.

We will still be working on our topic of the 'Amazing Americas' this half term and will be moving our focus to the Aztecs and Mayans.

English

Pupils will be studying different elements of GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling). This will help to raise the level of their writing. The children will be developing their comprehension skills of reading for information during guided reading. They also have access to a wide range of non-fiction books from our class reading corner for quiet reading and independent topic research. Children will develop their use of dictionaries and thesauruses to help extend their vocabulary.

English Fiction

Our key texts this half term are 'The Great Chocoplot' by Chris Callaghan which links with our topics about Aztecs and Mayans. We will be exploring this text and writing a narrative based on it.

Non-Fiction

Through our topic work we will be learning about the Aztecs and the importance of trade during this time. As the Aztecs traded chocolate we will be using this to design and make our own chocolate bar and packaging and write a persuasive piece of writing to persuade others to buy this chocolate. We will also be writing a non-chronological report linked to our Science topic about electricity.

Learning Behaviours

All children in our school are required to maintain high standards of work and effort throughout their time at New Pastures. To encourage our children to continue developing the right attitude towards learning there are systems in place including rewards and sanctions. We always aim to focus on praising the positive behaviour demonstrated. Our dojo system is an effective method of promoting positive behaviour. We will continue to use the **traffic light system to encourage 'green behaviour'**. Children who display positive behaviour will remain on green. If inappropriate behaviour is shown, a warning is given. If the child does not make the right choice, their name will be moved to amber. Should the child immediately improve his/her behaviour and follow instructions given by an adult, their name is moved back up to green. Any more serious incidents will result in their name being moved straight to red. Any child who stays on green all week will result in a message sent to parents with the good news.

Mathematics

We have carefully considered the Maths curriculum in light of the school closure and have amended our long term plan to allow **for extra time to cover missed units and to work on pupils'** consolidation of mathematical concepts. This term will focus on the four operations — addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be focusing initially on the 2x and 5x tables and then moving onto the 3x, 4x and 8x tables. It would be beneficial if you could spend some time with your child practising times tables facts. There are lots of good websites you can use **at home to support your child's learning in this area including 'push the button' which is a fun quick-fire** multiplication game. I would recommend ensuring that your child is confident in recalling times tables facts for the 2x, 5x and 10x tables before moving on to any other times tables as these are the ones that are focused on in Year 2,

Scientific and technological understanding

Children will be studying a topic called 'Electricity'. We will be exploring what electricity is and that this can come from either mains or a battery and that this is needed to operate electrical devices. We will be exploring electrical circuits and what happens when extra batteries are added to a circuit. We will look at what is needed for a circuit to work and how a circuit is incomplete when a key element is removed. We will also find out the differences between insulators and conductors.

History and Geography

These subjects are all tied into our topic. We will also be learning about the importance of the Aztecs and the Mayans and the significance of their discoveries. We will also explore **the physical and human geography of the 'Amazing Americas'** and develop our geographical skills.

Art and Design

Again linked to our topic, children will look at Aztec and Mayan art and how they were able to construct their temples. We will also be looking at the significance of chocolate during the **Aztec period and explore how chocolate can change it's state** when heated and then cooled, this will also consolidate our previous learning about the three states of matter. We will use this to design a new chocolate bar. We will also look at Aztec fashion and use our knowledge to design and make Aztec masks and headdresses.

PSHE

PSHE will continue to form a big part of our curriculum this **half term. Our Jigsaw topic this half term is 'Celebrating Difference'**.

Religious Education

To link with the PSHE Jigsaw programme, we will be following **the 'Discovery R.E.' scheme. Each year group will study** Christianity and another World Faith throughout the year. **Year 3 will study Christianity and our learning challenge is 'Has Christmas lost its true meaning?' We will be investigating the** true meaning of Christmas to Christians and comparing this to what Christmas means to us.

Family Learning Session

Unfortunately due to the current situation and social distancing guidelines we are still unable to offer any family learning sessions, however we will be continually assessing the situation and we hope to invite you into school in the near future.

Visits

Due to the ongoing global pandemic and social distancing guidelines we will not be going on a class visit this half term, however it is my hope that we will be able to arrange a visit relating to our class topic soon.

* Reminders *

PE kits

Our focus this half term is dance. Children need to bring PE kits to school on Monday, in preparation for their lessons on [Monday](#) and [Thursday](#). We also ask that PE kits remain in school until Friday and that they are then taken home over the weekend. The correct PE kit of white t-shirt and black shorts is expected along with appropriate footwear. Please be aware that children wearing earrings, or other jewellery, will not be permitted to take part in PE. If your child has his, or her, ears pierced, please make sure earrings are removed for school or that tape/plasters are provided to cover the piercings during the PE lesson.

School times

Due to social distancing guidelines and to ensure the safety of all our pupils and staff in school we will be operating staggered start and end times to the school day. The times for Class 5 are as follows:

8:45—the class teacher will come out onto the playground to collect Class 5

3pm—the class teacher will escort the children out onto the playground where they will be collected.

Morning session: 8:45am-12:00pm

Afternoon session 1:00pm-3:00pm

We ask that you stick to these times and are prompt when dropping your child off in the morning and when collecting in the afternoon. This is to ensure we do not have too many people in the playground at once and that the entrances to **school and the pedestrian walkways aren't blocked. Please** adhere to social distancing guidelines whilst in the playground and wait in the allocated areas.

Homework

Homework is given out to all children on a Friday and will need to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Creative homework linked to our topic will be set each half term (see separate menu). Spellings will also be given out on Friday for your child to learn ready for a dictation test on the following Thursday.

Please can your child also read at home at least three times a week and make sure they bring their reading record and reading book to school each day as they are checked on a daily basis.

School Contact Details

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Headteacher: Mrs P. Belnavis

Deputy Head teacher: Mr T. Purdy

Class teacher: Miss K. Cooke

Tuesday pm: Mrs L. Hughes

If you need to have a word with your **child's teacher please call the school** office to arrange a telephone conversation for after school when they will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.



Class 5
Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term One

2020-2021

'The Amazing Americas'

