WHERE IS THE TIME GOING?

Well, here we are in the second half of the Spring Term, and already half way through the school year. Last half term seems to have gone past in the blink of an eye. We hope that the children enjoyed our topic of ‘Brilliant Birmingham’ in which we looked at Bournville and the changes over time. The children definitely enjoyed creating their own moving vehicles.

English

This half term we will be focusing on mysterious stories based upon the book ‘The Water Tower.’

Children will be reading a range of mysterious stories and unpicking writers techniques and vocabulary choices. They will then use these skills to write their own stories with an element of atmosphere and tension. Children will then be writing a letter from a main character in the book, to an agony aunt.

Maths

In maths, we are covering many domains in preparation for SATs. Teachers will be focusing on the gaps within their set and addressing these. This will include all four operations, arithmetic skills, and problem solving.

Assessment Week will take place week commencing Monday 9th March.
**TOPIC**

Our topic for this half term will be South America which is predominately a geography unit. We will locate cities, mountains, rivers and major landmarks using our map skills. Children will be creating presentations about key places in South America and how they are similar or different to the U.K. We will also look into the fascinating tribes in the Amazon Rainforest (building on the Year 3 Rainforest topic.) Then later in the term, the children will be cooking some tasty South American dishes.

Alongside this, we will continue to focus on the Christian calendar and look at Lent/salvation and the importance of Easter.

In PSHE, our topic will be ‘Healthy Me’ which covers two main areas of health: Emotional health (relaxation, being safe, friendships, mental health skills, body image, relationships with food, managing stress) and Physical health (eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol, being safe, first aid) in order for children to learn that health is a very broad topic.

Our Science unit will be focusing on light. Here the children will be conducting a range of experiments involving light and shadows.

**SATs COUNTDOWN!**

At this stage in Year 6 our thoughts are focused on the approaching SATs, which take place the week beginning 11th May. Unfortunately, Mayoral and Police Commissioner elections will take place on Thursday 7th May which means school will be closed to pupils. Also, due to a change in bank holidays this year, school will be closed on Friday 8th May which is the Thursday and Friday preceding the SATs! You can help your child by reminding them of those important facts, like units of measure and times tables not to mention practicing their arithmetic skills.

The children will also be sitting a spelling and grammar test. Therefore, it is important that the children understand the correct terminology: prepositions, subordinate clauses, apostrophes for possession and omission, past and present progressive to name but a few. Please see out website for parent information as well as a grammar terminology document—https://www.stlaurencechurchjuniorschool.co.uk/year-6/

Please encourage your child to look through their SAT study booklets.

At school, we are aiming to support your child through these tests so that they can perform to the best of their ability. If you have any questions or queries about SATs please feel free to contact us.

**REMINDERS**

Please continue to encourage your children to be prepared for each day with the correct uniform such as school shoes, ties and gold/silver studded earrings and correct equipment such as P.E. kits and pencil cases.

Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home and complete 3 comments in their reading record per week. Comprehension and reading stamina will support them in their SATs.

Homework is always set on Fridays and we ask that it is returned by the following Wednesday. Please sign the completed homework and add any comments if necessary.

We look forward to another busy half term, working with you and your children.

Year 6 Team.