



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Gipsy Lane, Bracknell



Year 5 Spring Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are feeling reset and ready to tackle the term ahead.

### **Religion**

This term, we will be learning about, and reflecting on, Christmas, Revelations, Lent and Holy Week. The Christmas unit will focus on giving witness to the poor at Christmas. In the Revelations unit, we will explore how God reveals himself in Jesus. Our focus for Lent will be on the teachings of the apostles and how they help us understand how we can become like Jesus in preparation for Easter.

Just a reminder, at the end of the spring term, Year 5 will be presenting 'The Passion Play'. Further information and dates will be released in due course.

### **English**

In our reading sessions this term, we will be reading *Fly Me Home* by Polly Ho-Yen. This beautiful narrative is an incredibly moving portrait of one family's struggle to adjust to life in a new country.

Alongside Polly Ho-Yen, Year 5's focus author is Abi Elphinstone – we have lots of her books already in our class library. Her picture books are also designed for older readers and are absolutely stunning!

As part of our English lessons, we will be reading *Gorilla* by Anthony Brown. We will be writing our own stories in response. We will also begin Katherine Rundell's *The Explorer* – quite possibly one of my favourite books – and using her book as a stimuli for a range of writing opportunities.

### **Mathematics**

In Maths, much of the term will be spent cementing the children's understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. Much of this learning is underpinned by a secure knowledge of times tables, so please do support your child with continuing to practice these at home. The times table rock stars subscription is still active so we encourage the children to access this for regular practice.

### **Science**

This term in science, we will be studying Materials. The children will be investigating the different properties of materials and conducting practical experiments to test for magnetism, electrical and heat conductivity. After half term, we will be moving onto Biology, learning about living things and their habitats.

### **Geography/History**

In Geography, we will be continuing to learn about Volcanoes and other natural disasters, recognising the impact that they have on both humans and the environment. After half term, we will then switch to History. The Topic is the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and will include an interactive learning day.

### **Art**

During the Art and Design lessons, the children will be exploring architecture, focusing on the work of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The Design Technology using will focus on making a pop-up book as well as a Food technology unit where we will be making a healthy bolognaise.

### **PE**

Our PE sessions continue to be on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. The children will be taking part in handball led by an experienced external coach and dance.

### **Computing**

Mr. O'Connor will be working with our class to enhance their computing skills with activities linked to other curriculum areas. We encourage you to use purple mash at home to consolidate some of the skills they have learnt at school.

### **Spanish**

Mrs Maloney will be continuing to teach our Spanish lessons.

### **Homework**

Homework is a really important part of your child's learning journey – it helps to consolidate their learning and gives them more opportunities to secure their knowledge, understanding and skills. Homework will be set on a Monday and will be due in the following Monday.

Homework continue to be as follows:

- Daily reading with VIPERS responses in their yellow reading record
- Maths
- Spellings

On occasion, additional homework will be set. Our MS Teams is updated on a weekly basis to explain expectations. Maths should be completed in pencil; all written work should be completed in blue ink (fountain pen or similar, not biro/ballpoint pens) or pencil.

A huge thank you for your support in advance: it is really appreciated. As always, if you need to contact us, please email us and we will endeavor to reply within two working days if it requires a reply.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs Broadbridge & Mrs Pay