



Class 4JS

April 2016

Welcome to the Summer Term

I hope everybody had an enjoyable Easter break and managed to recharge their batteries ready for another exciting and busy term. Our topic this half term will be 'Who were the Ancient Greeks?'

Literacy

In literacy we will be beginning by looking at persuasive writing. We will first of all write about the national initiative 'Clean for the Queen' then use our skills, and learning about the Tropics, to write a travel brochure.

Additionally we will be exploring viewpoints in writing by producing diaries and letters as well as non-chronological reports. Our grammar focus for the half term will be apostrophes, their use to replace missing letters and the correct use to show ownership. The children will learn that not all words ending with an 's' need an apostrophe!

As always children will be given new spellings to learn each week, in a format that will make it easy for them to practise each night in preparation for a weekly test.

Numeracy

In numeracy, times tables and rapid recall of number facts continues to be a major focus as we have discovered that we need them for so many different aspects of our work. We will be focusing on learning about different units of measurement and converting between them. We are also continuing with our problem solving and investigative maths to see how we use and apply our skills from different areas of mathematics in real life contexts.

Science

In science we will begin by studying states of matter, including the water cycle and how water can exist in all

three states, solid, liquid and gas. We will not only investigate the factors affecting melting but also recreate our own mini-water cycle.

R.E. & Music

Within our RE lessons this term we will be asking 'What does it mean to me to be a Christian at St James' CE Academy?' To answer this we will be looking at how we belong to the Diocese of York and what other church schools are within the diocese. We will also visit a place of worship and find out more about it.

In Music we will be looking at the song 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. With this song we will compose our own accompaniments and vocal backing before performing them.

ICT

In our ICT lessons we will explore databases and use them to classify insects to help identify them. We will also continue with our E-safety learning when writing in our class blog before looking at advanced features of presentation software, learning how to use hyperlinks to create web style presentations.

PE

PE will be on Thursday or Friday and will require full kit (plain red shorts and white t-shirt) including appropriate footwear because as the weather improves more lessons will be held outside; jewellery is not to be worn on these days due to the safety issues. This term all students will also participate in swimming lessons at Winifred Holtby, as detailed in the separate letter sent out before the Easter break. We will be swimming every day for 2 weeks and therefore children will need full swimming kit, and no jewellery at all for this time.

Foundation subjects.

As already mentioned, the theme this term is 'Who were the Ancient Greeks?'. However we are going to begin the half term with a final look at the Tropics, building on our learning from the last half term.

We will then look at Greece's position in Europe, and then the history of Ancient Greece using a timeline. After this our main focus will be the Olympics, how they originated in Greece and how they have developed over the years.

Once again, a busy and challenging half term, but enjoyable too!

Class information

All children are expected to read everyday at home. Regular reading practice will help your child not only with their reading but also their writing in literacy and other subject areas. If ever your child has forgotten their school reading book, please record any other reading they have done in their reading record or in a note to myself – this does count towards their weekly reading. Additionally your child has personalised times tables they need to learn to enable them to take part in the whole school maths challenge. Being able to quickly recall times table facts is an invaluable skill so your support in assisting your child learn these is greatly appreciated.

I am always available after school to discuss any concerns you may have about your child.

Mrs J Stevens.