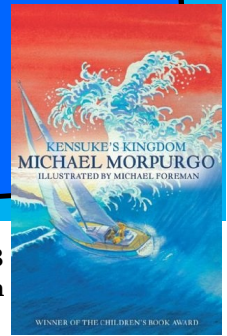




Elm Class

September 2023
Autumn Term



'Where in the world? South America'

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school for the start of a new academic year. This term, we have an exciting array of experiences planned for the children to introduce them to year 5!

Our first **geography** unit of work will develop the children's locational knowledge, with a particular focus on South America. Children will learn about using compass points and co-ordinates to describe locations. They will find out about some of the major cities in South America and use maps to analyse why some areas have become more densely populated than others.

Closer to home, we will also be getting 'out and about' in Petworth to conduct some fieldwork on the transport issues in the town centre. Children will be gathering data from surveys and observations, which they will present to other pupils in the school.

In **science**, children will acquire an understanding of the different life-cycles of plants, birds, amphibians and mammals. Later in the term, lessons will focus on the changes in humans and animals over the different phases of life.

Art and Design lessons will develop children's observational drawing techniques, including

creating soft and hard lines and understanding scale and perspective. They will use the work of David Hockney and Henri Rousseau to guide their creations.

A varied and challenging term of **P.E.** awaits Elm Class this term: children will be benefitting from some expert gymnastics coaching, courtesy of Victory Gymnastics. In addition, there will be weekly swimming lessons at Billingshurst Leisure Centre on Friday mornings. Then after half-term we will be moving onto dance, on a Monday afternoon.

Our **history** lessons will help children understand the Nile's significance in the formation of an advanced civilisation. Children will also learn about the importance of natural resources, technology and government during the time of the pharaohs.

Computing lessons will start by ensuring children feel confident navigating the drives and folders on a computer. Children will revise how to cut, copy and paste images and text. In addition, pupils will learn about how to email and use cloud storage of on their Office 365 (school) email accounts. As with previous years, all of our computing lessons re-iterate the importance of e-safety.

Later in the term children will learn about systems and network and develop their expertise related to video production.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.



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Ancient Egypt - Civilisation and the Nile

Design and Technology lessons will help children understand how different structures are strengthened and reinforced. They will complete their own research on small shelters, such as tents, bus-stops and garden buildings. Children will design, make and evaluate their own structures based on their own product specification. After the half-term, the children will be part of a whole school project of designing two new outside book shelters.

Our **R.E.** lessons will look at the idea of creation and fall. The children will have the opportunity to debate conflicting and complementary ideas about the world's origin and think about how science and religion can co-exist. Later in the term, learning will be guided by the question, "Was Jesus the Messiah?" Children will discover how Christians interpret the idea of incarnation.

In **French** children will learn to discuss their musical preferences and to say which instruments they play or enjoy, as well as describing what other people are playing. In the second unit of work, children learn names of food and drinks related to packed lunches and breakfast. They learn how to talk about what they have eaten/ drunk the previous day.

Homework will continue to be set weekly. Arguably the most important part of this homework is the need for children to read at home at least five days out of seven. The overall effect of regular reading on children's education cannot be understated as it has a knock-on effect on many other subjects in the curriculum. Please ensure your child completes this in addition to the online maths, spellings and reading comprehension sheet.

Of course, **English** and **Maths** will be taught on a daily

basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. If you would like any additional information about this term's learning, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be practised in school regularly and tested weekly. Spellings will be tested on a Thursday.

I am really looking forward to working with year 5 this year. I know it will be an exciting, challenging and fun-filled year. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to me please feel free to make an appointment at the office.

Many thanks,

Emily Stedman (Class teacher)

Mrs Gill (Teaching assistant)

Key dates for you diary

Swimming lessons

Commencing 16th September—end of term

Gymnastics sessions

September 12th—Tuesday 10th October

P.E.

After half term – Monday afternoons.

Parliament week

6th November

Author Week

20th November

