

Diary Dates

DARE Graduation

Friday 9th
January

Ten Ten Theatre Visitors

Tuesday 13th
January

KS2 Talent Show

Thursday 29th
January

KS2 Disco

Friday 6th
February

Musical Evening

Thursday 12th
February

INSET Day

Friday 13th
February

HALF TERM

16th February –
20th February

Lent

Reconciliation Mass Thursday
13th March

Year 5 Lead of the Last Supper

Thursday 26th
March

Africa Awaits for Year 5!

I hope that you all have had an enjoyable Christmas break, hopefully you have all had plenty of excitement as well as rest, as we are hitting the ground running in 2015! Our Year of Adventure theme continues, as Year 5 look to explore exotic Africa this term, with plenty of exciting opportunities for the children to continue challenging their thinking and making great discoveries. Our learning will take us beyond the walls of the classroom at times as we begin our Forest Schools work in the second half of the Spring term.



*Our topic for this Spring Term is:
Africa Awaits:
Why is Africa closer than we think?*

In **RE**, we will focus on three topics this term: **Mission, Memorial Sacrifice** and **Sacrifice**. The children will explore the scriptures in depth and opportunity will be provided for collective and individual work on What is means to be part of a community, and the part we have to play in it. Children will also be looking closely at what it means to be selfless and to go without the things we don't need, as we study the sacrifices Jesus made during Lent and in the lead-up to Easter.

In **English**, we will continue to study a range of different text types, kicking off with some African-inspired poetry, writing letters, looking at persuasive styles of writing leading onto discussions and debating work. We will continue to study a range of different texts during Guided Reading and continue to build on our Grammar skills through close study of different ways to structure sentences, improving, editing and exploring what we have learned through regular, extended pieces of writing.

In **Mathematics**, we will be building on the mental and written calculation strategies we have looked at in the Autumn term for subtraction, addition and multiplication and continuing to look at how to apply such strategies through engaging problem-solving tasks. We will look in further detail at fractions and decimals, and will be looking at aspects of shapes, space and taking accurate measurements, which will link closely to our Science topics.

Your Help Matters!

- Please continue reading with your child every day, signing their homework diary to ensure good communication between home and school. **If you would like further support with helping your child with their reading, please get in touch with Miss Eckersley.**

- Homework will be given out on **Wednesdays** and collected on the following Wednesday. The Year 5 Blog Class page is up and running, so if your child needs a copy of the homework, it should be available to download from the Class Homework page:

<http://brwacademy.com/year-5/year-5-homework-resources> .

- It is important that your child is practising their number facts, spellings – please keep checking them regularly. We are running a Year 5 competition for champion spellers and Kings/Queens of times tables, with certificates awarded for hard work and improvement.

Please ensure that when we start our Forest School work after half term that your child wears appropriate outdoor wear. More details to follow nearer the time.

We will be continuing our links with the Becket school in **music**, studying notation, composition, as well as performing in time to a beat with a range of woodwind, brass and string instruments.

Through **Geography** and **History**, Children will be learning about the continent of Africa, and its rich and diverse kingdoms. There will be plenty of opportunities for pupils to research their own questions and develop a real thirst and passion for Africa, it's cultures, people, animals and realising its importance and significance in our modern and ever-changing world.

In **Science**, children will be investigating through a series of practical sessions about how the forces around us interact with one another. This will link to our study of the geology of Africa, such as how mountains are formed and vicious volcanos! We will then move onto Life Cycles in the second half of the term. The Science sessions will encourage children to design and test a range of forces using specific equipment. They will continue to improve their recording and evaluation skills through generating a scientific report at the end of each lesson.

As ever, our Africa theme continues in **Computing**; this term pupils will be building on their skills from their previous work in the LEGO sessions to create and program an animal that lives in Africa, as well as investigate ways of keeping it 'alive'! The children will also be designing and evaluating an African-themed adventure game. Work will also continue on using the Internet as an effective and safe research tool to support learning.

We will be studying African Cuisine in **Design and Technology** this term, which should provide pupils with the opportunity to design and prepare African-inspired food dishes! **Art** will be full of studying the wonderful and inspiring world of African Art, which will be woven throughout the study of our topic over the term.



Our indoor **PE** lessons for the first half term will be supported with a specialist coach who will provide additional teaching for **Dance**. We will be looking at how we can work co-operatively to create a dance to go with a piece of African music which originates from the Tuareg people of the Sahara desert.

Our outdoor PE sessions will focus on **net/wall** games, with an opportunity for pupils to play a variation on the new emerging sport from South Africa known as 360ball. More details will be available on the Year 5 blog soon!

We will continue with our **French**, building on conversation skills through speaking and listening activities, games, singing and other interactive media.

Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits

We can look forward to some exciting opportunities to bring our learning to life outside of the classroom this term. As well as Year 5's Forest Schools work in Spring term 2, We are hoping to visit a local superstore to understand **where our food comes from**, with a chance to peek at some 'behind the scenes' of how a supermarket store is run. As usual, more details and dates will follow as they become available.