



YEAR 5

Spring Term Newsletter 2022

I hope this newsletter finds you well rested and feeling excited about the Spring Term! Autumn Term was jam-packed and our aim is to continue to create a stimulating learning environment full of interesting learning and exciting trip opportunities.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you to ensure that the children are organised for their learning by being on time for school and wearing the appropriate uniform. If you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Year 5 team on the following email address: y5@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk



Please join me in welcoming the new member of the Year 5 Team – Cerys Evans. Cerys has been teaching for 15 years, she has 2 children and will be teaching Hadid.

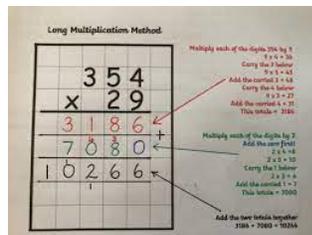
Topic

Welcome to Mexico! Get ready to explore this unique country, from its towering temples and stunning geography to its pulsing rhythms and fun festivals. Is your tummy rumbling? We will be finding out about the local cuisine and designing a delicious Mexican meal. We will then be discovering the mysterious world of the ancient Mayan civilisation. We hope to taste their chocolate, learn their poetry, play their ball game and follow all of their curious rituals.



Maths

During this term, we will be looking at multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and percentages. Throughout the Spring Term, we will also be recapping on concepts taught in Year 4 as part of our catch up curriculum. Additionally, we will also be using our data to extend learning and consolidate concepts from the Autumn Term, with particular focus on reasoning questions and answering fluency questions in a timed manner.



We loved the excitement TT Rockstars brought to the Autumn Term and we hope this will continue throughout the Spring Term and beyond. By the end of the year, our expectation is that your child will know all their times tables by rote and be able to answer questions in under 2 seconds. Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts

English

We will start English by learning a lovely journey tale set in Mexico featuring a little boy called Aapo. His Mum, Akna, will take us on an adventure to the Mexican jungle where she gets what she wants but not necessarily what she started the journey wanting.

Have you heard of the Kraken? Then, get excited, as we will explore Tennyson's poem about the mysterious creature that lurked in the Ocean! We will complete our trio of Talk for Writing units with a persuasive text, which will discuss 'If a Native American Burial Ground should have been allowed to become a shopping centre?'

To complement these lessons, we will be teaching a variety of grammar lessons, including prefixes and suffixes, recognising and using relative clauses as well as how to show degrees of possibility using modal verbs. We have rotated around our Guided Reading books, so please ask your child what they are reading next!

Routines and Reminders

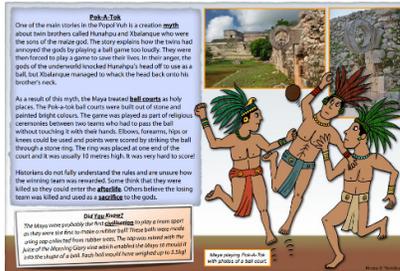
PE days – PE with Coach Shona will remain on Tuesdays. A reminder that children should come to school in their school tracksuit (with the logo), white t-shirt and black trainers (if you do not have a school tracksuit please make sure the children are wearing plain black or navy sportswear and not fashioned tracksuit). We will continue our additional PE session on Thursdays. This will be taught by the class teachers and involve a range of activities that promote fitness as well as to improve skill levels. Please can the children come to school that day in full school uniform but we ask that they wear their black trainers.

Homework

Weekly spellings: These can be found on the school website (under the main heading Curriculum and Assessment and drop down to English) and the children will be tested every Friday.

Daily reading: We ask that all children read for 20-30 mins daily. This will have a huge impact on their learning across the curriculum. Please encourage your child to read a variety of genres and include non-fiction texts. Reading with your child, or asking comprehension questions on the texts they have read is also another good way to boost their skills.

Times Tables Rock Stars: We are encouraging all children to play Studio 10 times per session. Once they have completed this, many children say they like to play Festival or Arena, which allows them to compete against any member of the school who is currently online. Additionally, children could send their friends Rockslams – this is a way to challenge their skills.



Topic Project: As part of our Hola Mexico! Topic, we would like the children to make a Pok-a-Tok court. We will be learning about this traditional game in our lessons, but feel free to get a head start by using this link to research what the game involved and what the court would have looked like. You may use any medium – so be creative!

<http://mayankids.com/mmkpeople/mkballgame.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKvQjgC9sIY>

What else will be happening in the Curriculum?

RE

During our RE lessons in Spring Term 1, we will be focussing on Hinduism with focus on the Pilgrimage. Spring 2 will we focus on Sikhism – belonging to the Sikh community.

PSHE

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at Dreams and Goals and Healthy Choices.

Art

Mr Hayn will be asking the children to look at the work of 'resistance art' around the world, particularly artwork that has been used as a powerful tool to bring about political and ideological change. The South African artist William Kentridge is being used as particular inspiration to do a self-portrait drawing in charcoal. In addition, to support our Topic, we will be focusing on Mayan Art: sculptures and carvings and in D&T, we will be making Mexican musical instruments.

Music

Ms Mahony will be focussing on rhythm and beat work. The children will be reading from graphic scores (pictures of sound), standard notation, incorporating listening, playing as an ensemble, improvising and composing. They will be singing songs as a class, something much neglected over the pandemic, and re-tuning their ears and vocal chords.

Spanish

In Spanish, we will be looking at features on the human body, hobbies and sports concluding with animals.

Science

Our Science topic is Living things and their habitats. Within this unit, we will study Naturalist including David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. We will take a deep look into Metamorphosis and conclude with a human timeline and gestation periods. In Spring 2, we will investigate Animals, including humans.

Computing

This unit will teach the children how to use Audacity software as an introduction to sound recording.

How to help your child



Educational Visits in Year 5 this term

We have booked a trip to London Zoo in January to support our Science unit. As part of our Topic unit, we will be going to The London Chocolate Museum. This workshop includes the "History and Tasting" workshop with focus on Mayan history and the making of a dark chocolate slab. Alongside the making, each child will be creating the packaging for their bars using Mayan symbols. We also hope to visit a London Sivan Kovil in Lewisham to further understand Sikhism.