

Year 2 Autumn Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

The autumn term is always an exciting one for both staff and children; especially due to exciting trips. We are already planning ahead with a curriculum full of creativity, enthusiasm and fun which we know the children will thoroughly enjoy. We would like to keep you informed of the activities and topics we hope to cover this term:

On Friday 21st September, we will have a fantastic storyteller coming in. They will be telling us wonderful stories about Anansi the troublesome spider.

Also on Wednesday 14th November, we have a very informative trip to the Jewish museum linked to our RE topic.

Maths:

In maths, we will begin by revisiting the four operations. We will now consider the best methods to use for particular calculations and understand when to use mental calculations rather than the written form.

To support and develop our timetable knowledge the school has adopted a new app called Timetable Rockstar. Your child will be given a log in details to enable them to assess the site at home which is also available on their tablets. Children in Year 2 are expected to know their 2, 5, 10 timetables facts so therefore we encourage you to support your child's attainment using this app.

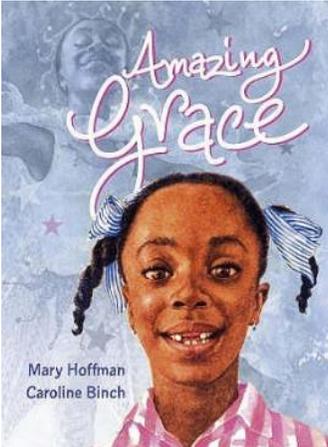


These are some websites to support your child in maths:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=8>

Literacy:



We can't wait to read this new text *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman. *Amazing Grace* is told she cannot play the part in the school play because she is a black girl and the part she wants to play is Peter Pan. At first she is discouraged and upset until her grandmother shows her that anything is possible. At Saviour's we share this value of tenacity.

We will be exploring this text using drama, digital imagery and music to enhance our writing and bring the story to life. We will apply our writing skills through a variety of genres such as poetry, information texts and narrative using this story as our inspiration.

In our spelling sessions, we will be travelling to the exciting planet that is 'spelling zone' and with the help of our alien friends we will be learning new spelling rules such as adding suffixes and prefixes to root words.

In guided reading, we will continue to develop our comprehension skills and also read other texts we wouldn't usually choose ourselves based upon our peers' recommendations.

Useful links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnQMOU340ts>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/words-and-spelling>

Science:

In Science, we will begin our unit 'Habitats.' This unit is one of our favourites as the children get to utilise the lovely grounds and outdoor learning facilities we have here at St Saviour's. The children will be exploring and comparing habitats based on appearance and physical properties. We will be describing how animals are suited to their habitats. We will be writing to Mr Parker to inform him of our findings within the school grounds.

History Focus:

Our new topic is 'Same but different.' We are studying two significant people in history Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks. This links in with Black History Month in October. We will learn about the challenges they faced and how they overcame them as well as the impact they have had on our history.

We will create freeze frames to act out key scenes and explore the thoughts and feelings of those involved. Understanding life through their eyes will be the focus of our diary entries in which we will be able to demonstrate what we have learnt so far. Using images and artefacts to delve deeper into the past will help

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us to value primary and secondary sources and how these valuable resources encourage us to enquire further by asking questions and answering some of our own.

Useful links: [bbcbitese](#)



Geography Focus:

We will be locating and comparing schools across the world. We will be looking at geographical and physical features to compare similarities and differences in the journeys taken by children to their schools. This will support and develop their map reading skills and understanding of the keys used to identify specific things on maps.

DT Focus:

In DT, we are really excited to design, make and evaluate our own hand puppets. The children will be developing their sewing skills and techniques to produce a fully working puppet.



Art Focus:

In Art, we will be creating portraits of Nelson Mandela/ Rose Parks in the style of the great artist Pablo Picasso. The children will use a range of mediums and will learn about cubism.

Computing: This term we will develop our understanding of coding as we write our own algorithms to animate objects using Scratch software (you can access Scratch from home at www.scratch.mit if you want to practice at home). We will write code to make objects move around the screen in different ways, test our code out and try to spot any errors which might stop our program working the way we want it to (debugging). As the term moves on, we'll begin to study digital photography as we safely take, edit, format and share digital photographs. We will think about the online safety rules we need to follow when taking and using digital photos and use free web-based software Photocat to edit the pictures we take (<http://www.photocat.com/>) as well as an app called 'Pic Collage'.

PE: This term, the children will be focusing upon outdoor games. The children will be acquiring all the necessary skills and qualities that are needed to be true professional sports person. The children will be learning the correct ball skills including throwing and catching.

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RE: In RE, we will be using parables told by Jesus. We will reflect upon these stories through drama, art, music, writing and reflection. We know the children thoroughly enjoying choosing medium of their choice when responding to parables and the work they produce is always to a high standard.

PSHE: We will be taking time to reflect upon our rights and responsibilities and how these affect the wider world. The children will begin by discussing how they can contribute to life in their own classroom, how it helps the classroom to run smoothly and why it is important for the classroom to be a happy place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support.

Yours Sincerely,

Year 2 Team
Miss Walsh
Mrs Bullock