



AYLESFORD SCHOOL
WARWICK

Giant Class Newsletter

Spring 2022

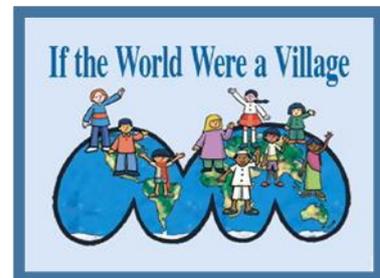
 **Twitter: GiantClass21**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that Year 5 are ready for the Spring term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts we received at the end of last term. Mrs Green, Miss Gisbey and myself were all very touched. Miss Gisbey has now left Giant class to continue her teaching placement in another school setting - we wish her lots of luck and success.

Spring topic

This term, our topic will be 'If the World were a Village' where we will be comparing countries in South America compared to countries in the UK. As always, we shall be taking a cross-curricular approach to our learning and explore our topic through linking Literacy, Maths, Science, Geography, Art, Music and DT.



Homework

All homework will continue to be set online this term. Upper KS2 homework will take the following structure:

- Weekly homework set on Purple Mash, which will consolidate the week's learning.
- Weekly spellings set on Spelling Shed linked to spelling rules taught in school: <https://www.edshed.com>
- Spellings will be assessed every Monday.
- Reading - Read for 4 days of 20 minutes a week

Homework in Giant Class is set on a **Monday**, to be handed in the following **Monday**. It is important that homework is completed and handed in on time and finished to the same high standards that we expect of work in school time.

We know that many children do enjoy the creative homework set last year. Therefore pupils may complete an optional creative task linked to our topic. (please see additional homework letter)

Spring Term Curriculum

Maths

This Spring term we will then be learning to multiply and divide larger numbers. To understand the 'worth' of any remainders, when dividing. This brings us nicely into then learning about fractions. We will be spending most of the first half term securing our understanding of fractions: finding fractions of amounts, comparing and ordering fractions, adding and subtracting fractions.



During the second half term, we will continue to explore fractions but move onto understanding mixed number fractions and 'breaking the whole' into fractions. Once secure, we will relate our knowledge to decimals and percentages.

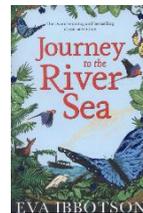
The children will continue to build their mathematical problem solving skills through our Big Maths lessons fortnightly.

We will continue with Multi-Stars, Times Table Rock Stars and learning our arithmetic strategies during our 'Daily Ten' sessions 3-days a week; every week. The children are already making great progress!



Literacy

Giant Class will be reading in the first half term: 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. A book about Maia, who is tragically orphaned at thirteen. She has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives hundreds of miles up the Amazon.



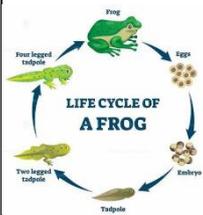
In the second half term, we will be reading: 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. A book about a boy called Fred, who has always dreamed of becoming an explorer. One day his plane plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice.

The Literacy lessons this term, link perfectly to our topic 'If the World were a Village'. The children will be writing journal entries, persuasive letters, poetry: haikus and book reviews, while re-capping Grammar taught from term 1 and learning about punctuation such as brackets, dashes and commas to indicate parenthesis Towards the end of the Spring term, the children will be writing an information leaflet about Brazil and The Amazon.

We will continue to have an 'I am an author' every Thursday with Mrs McGregor, consolidating any skills taught in Literacy lessons, while giving the children opportunities to freely write.

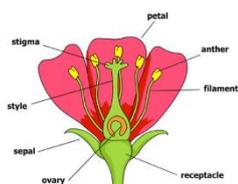
Spellings will focus on the Year 5 & 6 common exception words.

Science

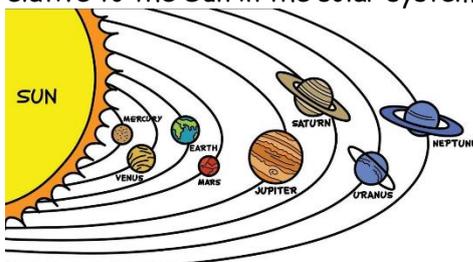


In Science, the children will be using an increasing range of scientific vocabulary to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

We shall also be learning about the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals (Parents/Guardians - the content will only make reference to the combining of male and female gametes in humans.)



During the second half of the Spring term, we will be learning about the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.



We will be explaining the seasons and the Earth's tilt, day length at different times of year, in different hemispheres (linking to our topic).

Topic (Geography)

Pupils will be developing contextual knowledge of countries in South America - Mexico and Brazil.

In the first half term we will be exploring Mexico (where Mrs Green originates from). The themes we will be learning about are:



- World Nationalities and Languages,
- World Ages and Religions.
- Schooling
- Money and possessions

With enough knowledge, the children will be comparing and contrasting the economic activity within the UK to South America, while investigating the distribution of natural resources - food, water & energy.

In the second half term, we will be learning about the effects of biomes, the water cycle and the different climate/landscapes to the UK. We will be exploring: Why does vegetation grow well in the Amazon Rainforest?



By the end of the topic, year 5 should be able to draw conclusions of locations in South America and how it influencing people's lives.



Spanish



Giant Class will be learning in Spanish how to:
Placing countries on a map
Describing colours of the flags
Learning about two South American festivals:

- El Carnaval de Oruro, Bolivia,
- y El Carnaval La Tirana, Chile

RE

During RE, children will exploring Why is Jesus inspiring to some people and learning about the religious festival: Easter.



Music

The children will explore performing in singing sessions, every other week. They will continue with weekly Music sessions taught by the Secondary phase.

Computing

This term, the children will be learning about the history of computing, creating databases, as well as continuing to develop their knowledge on E-Safety.



PE

On a Thursday afternoon, pupils will be taught PE by the Secondary phase. In the first half of the term, the children will be taught Football.



On Thursdays, Pupils will need to wear to school the appropriate school PE kit instead of their normal school uniform. Football kits will not be required and **must not** be worn.

We will endeavour to have these lessons outside as much as possible so please ensure that children have school jogging bottoms and trainers.

*Football boots and shin pads are **not** required*

Art and DT

Giant Class in Art lessons will be studying the work of the artists: Beatriz Milhazes, Joaquin Torres Garcia and the photographer Ansel Adams. The children will be using their work to be inspired to create a collage of a North American landscape, using a variety of different collage mediums (links with Topic).

In DT lessons, the children will be learning how to evaluate an idea and make changes if needed. They will critically evaluate the quality of designs, for the purpose of an animal's habitat (links with Science).



Please can children have a named, old shirt/apron in school at all times to use for art activities

Reading

Pupils should continue to read regularly at home, at least 4 times a week, choosing from a wide range of texts.

Please record and sign all reading, whether independent or with an adult, in the children's Reading Records. If your child has read at least 4 times in one week, they will receive a sticker in their Reading Record, which will contribute towards a Synergy house point. Please send Reading Records in to school on Wednesday, with any books that need to be changed.



We will be changing books on a Wednesday, during our allocated library time in the secondary library. These books, as well as the new books in KS2 can be shared at home, however please make sure they are returned for others to enjoy.

Drinks and Snacks

Please provide a healthy snack for your child to have at break times.

The children will be encouraged to keep hydrated and have access water at all times throughout the school day.



Please make sure packed lunches that are provided from home, do not include Nutella (or any other hazelnut chocolate spread) due to our school being a nut free school.

I am looking forward to seeing the positive learning attitudes continue in Giant class, ready to face the new year, 2022!

Thank you for your co-operation and continued support, Mrs Goulding (Class Teacher)