



Mexico Class

Newsletter

Summer Term 2017

Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a wonderful Easter and hope you didn't eat too many chocolate eggs or hot cross buns! This term our topic is 'Below The Waves', I am excited by the opportunities this topic enables – Creatures of the deep, The Titanic and other shipwrecks, a range of habitats and submarines and submersives! Hopefully your children will be as enthused as I am! As part of the topic we shall watch some of the BBC classic documentary 'Blue Planet' as well as experimenting with different paper painting and dying techniques for our art display.

Here is a brief outline of the topics and themes we will be covering this term, along with some useful points to note. If you need any further information then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



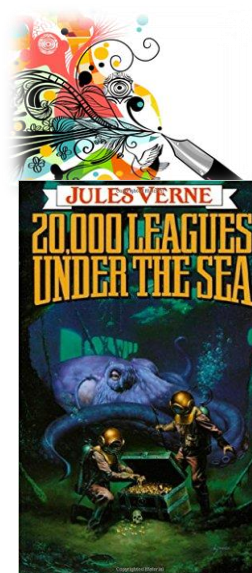
This topic will find your children becoming great marine biologists and habitat experts, delving into the vast topic of the ocean. You can find out more about this topic in our class assembly on **Friday 12th May, which is the third week back after Easter.**

We also intend to organise an off-site school trip this term, which will link brilliantly with our topic – watch this space for further details.

Literacy

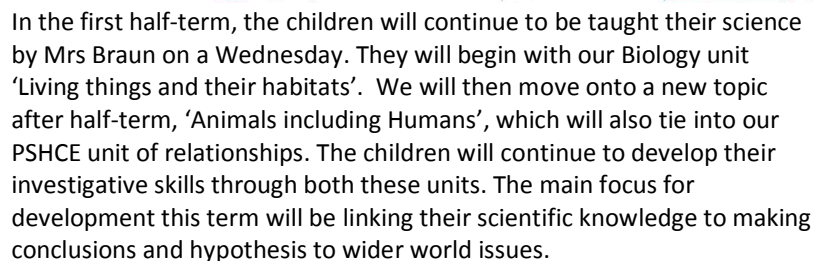
We will begin our term by looking at Non-chronological texts, creating our own creatures from the deep and using our full imagination to create behaviours and characteristics! We will use real life jellyfish, angler fish, octopuses and squid to get inspired to create our monsters lurking in the depths. This will be followed by a fictional writing unit, where we will create our own adventure story inspired by the mythical underwater city of Atlantis. After half-term, we will be honing our recount writing skills, by creating diary entries. This will be inspired by looking at the history of the sinking of the Titanic and the many artefacts and diary entries that were found in the wreckage. The children will be taught about the importance of written work making sense, having a purpose and being grammatically correct, through both explicit grammar lessons and as part of our Guided Reading sessions.

Guided Reading sessions this term will include time to enjoy reading different types of text. In addition we will enjoy focussed learning sessions that will help to build up the skills necessary to become a lifelong reader. There will be many key texts this term, however our whole class text will be 'Why the Whales Came' by former children laureate Michael Morpurgo. Spellings will be given out on a Monday and the children will be tested on the following Monday. **N.B. this term children will be tested on up to 2 mystery spellings that follow the pattern they have been learning that week.**





Science



This term the children will be developing their communications skills; learning to compose and use email effectively. This will link to our Geography topics of conservation. We will also focus again on e-safety and will continue to develop their ability to keep themselves safe when using technology.

R.E.

The first half-term, we will be learning and appreciating the symbols and religious rituals of the Islamic faith – including ‘The Five Pillars of Islam’. In the second half-term we will be looking at symbolism in Religion with a particular focus on ‘Water.’ Through this topic we will explore how water is symbolic in both Christianity and other religions by looking into; religious practices, traditional stories and other symbolic references.



This term all our art will begin with the specific techniques using both oil and soft pastels. We shall use these skills to create a 'life-size eye' of a deep sea creature linked back to our literacy unit. We shall look to our

literacy once again for inspiration, when we create an Atlantis underwater scene using different media. In art week we shall be looking to coral reefs as our inspiration; with the huge variation of life and colour produced.

Music

The Sea is once again our inspiration for music this term and it will stimulate our song writing unit. We shall look at iconic pieces of music depicting the sea in different ways, looking at different genres of modern song as well as Classical and Romantic era music. We shall then use the iPad software Garageband to create our own pieces of instrumental music or songs.

P.E.

The children will have one P.E. sessions a week taught by Mr Ruff. This outdoor athletics session will take place first thing on **Wednesday morning**. Please remember that the correct P.E kit should be in school on these days and that children need to have plimsolls and outdoor kit. No jewellery is to be worn, please ensure that all earrings are removed on P.E days if the children are not able to remove them themselves.

Swimming

There will be two swimming lessons each week, one on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** morning. Please ensure your child comes in suitably equipped for this activity and **please refer to the separate letter, sent last term, for further details.**

N.B. in the event of very hot weather please take precautionary measures with sun cream and/or a sun hat. As our swimming and P.E. sessions are in the morning, applying cream before school would be preferable.

Changes to homework

After whole class discussions in both Year 5 classes, Mrs Robinson and I have decided to trial a new homework system. At the start of term children will be given a grid of different activities, for them to choose the homework they do each week. This will enable children to have more choice and a greater variety of curriculum areas to select from. More will be explained in a cover note when handed out with the homework grid on the first Wednesday of the term. However, homework should still be expected to be handed in **on a Monday.**

How can you help?

- 1) Please ensure that your child learns their weekly spellings and times tables.
- 2) As part of their weekly homework the children must read for at least 10 minutes, 3 times a week at home. The logs will be marked each week on a **Friday**. However, please ensure your child brings in their reading book and log every day. It would be lovely if you could listen to your child read and discuss what they have read. However, I appreciate this is not always possible and your child might prefer to sometimes read independently. If this is the case, encourage them to record what they have read in their reading log, along with their thoughts on what they have read.
- 3) Support your child with their weekly homework.
- 4) Encourage your child with any work they want to do at home and always try and make it fun!

How can I help?

I am very happy to hear from any parent who may have a concern or who needs any further information. I will be continuing communication via Class Dojo, which will allow you to message me privately. I am also around most afternoons, after school to see parents. You may also make an appointment to see me, via the school office.

Mr Rogers