



## China Class Newsletter

### Summer Term 2018

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 subjects 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 term you 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 theme in our class assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is only next week!

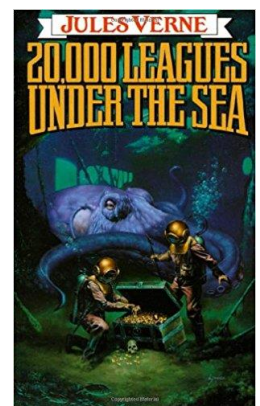
We also intend to organise an off-site school trip this term, which will link brilliantly with our studies - watch this space for further details.

## Literacy

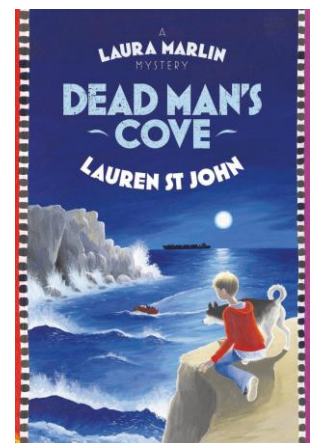
We will begin our term by looking at Non-chronological texts, creating our own creatures from the deep and using our full imagination to create behaviours and characteristics! We will use real life jellyfish, angler fish, octopuses and squid to get inspired to create our monsters lurking in the depths. 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. In fact we have a close 'local' link to the Titanic and have enlisted the help of the Godalming Museum where they have many artefacts linking to the local man Jack Phillips, the Chief Wireless Telegraphist of RMS Titanic. Jack's stayed on the Titanic transmitting SOS calls his last message was picked up by the Virginia of the Allen Line at 2.17am, and the Titanic foundered at 2.20am. There is a memorial to Jack Phillips in Godalming and can be found between the River Wey and Godalming Parish Church near to the village park and bowling green.



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. We will be continuing to focus on the 'talk for writing' technique which is really engaging the children and producing some fabulous written work. 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 the skills necessary to become a lifelong reader.



There will be many key texts this term, however our whole class text will be 'Dead Man's Cove' by Lauren St John. This is the first book of a series, so hopefully it will inspire the children to read more of them. Spellings will be given out on a Monday and the children will be tested on the following Monday.

A photograph of a sea turtle swimming over a coral reef. The turtle is seen from above, moving towards the right. The water is clear blue, and the reef below is covered in various coral species. The image is framed with a soft, circular vignette effect.

responsible online but also developing their filming, editing and script writing for their own short films.

Later in the 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.



### R.E.

The first half-term, we will be continuing with our new unit about Christianity and studying 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' We will investigate and discuss the meaning of words such as sacrifice, incarnation and salvation. The unit also investigates the narratives of Jesus' death and makes clear connections between Christian beliefs.

In the second half-term we will be looking at 'What kind of King is Jesus'. We will be discussing and making connections between belief in the Kingdom of God and how Christians put their beliefs into practice in different ways, including in worship and in service to the community.

### Spanish

We are pleased to announce that Senorita Bell has returned to St Mary's following maternity leave and will be continuing to teach the children once a week.

### Art and Design Technology

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. We shall also look to coral reefs as inspiration. In art week we shall be looking to conservation and the huge issue of plastic in the ocean as inspiration for a mixed media project.

### 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. This outdoor athletics session will take place on *Thursday 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 *Monday (10:45am)* and *Friday (11:45am)*.

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. *Please apply cream before school.*

### Other News

#### Year 5/6 Play

As usual we are hoping to have the 'big top' marquee erected on the school field to host the Year 5 and 6 end of term summer play. This year your children will play an active part in supporting the Year 6 in their final primary performance. We hope you are able to come along to support our budding actors. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

#### Residential

You will have received a note regarding the Year 5 residential which will be taking place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Mr Rogers and I are very much looking forward to this. Should you require further information, please contact the school office.

#### Royal Wedding

There is of course a Royal Wedding happening this term. It is not very often we experience a Royal Wedding. Here at St Mary's we are hoping to celebrate this union showing support of our monarchy by dressing in

red, white or blue and having a street-style party. Once again, further information will be provided nearer the time.

Please keep referring to the school newsletter and our website for additional information as to what is happening in our school.

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In the summer term of last year we trialled a new homework system in Year 5, a 'Homework Grid'. The response was mostly positive and therefore having made a few improvements based on parent/children feedback, we will be following a similar pattern this year. The focus allows the children more choice in the tasks they complete. However, the expectation is still that one piece of homework will need to be completed every week. This will need to be handed in on a Monday. More details will be included on a letter when the first homework is handed out.

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. 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 maths, literacy or topic homework. Make a game of it. Children can be very competitive.
- 4) **Encourage your child** with any work they want to do at home and always try and make it fun!
- 5) **Walking home** - we will require a written request from the parent/carer submitted to the school office should you wish a child to walk home after school on their own. Without this we are not able to let your child leave school grounds unaccompanied.
- 6) **Mobile phones** - Should you require your children to carry a mobile phone when in school they will be asked to submit it to the teacher whereby it will be stored carefully and returned to the child at the end of the day. Please note that St Mary's will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the mobile phones.

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 setting up communication via Class Dojo, which will allow you to message me privately (further details on this will follow). I am also around most afternoons, after school to see parents. If you wish to speak to me in greater depth you may also make an appointment to see me, via the school office.

Thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to getting to know you and your children as the year progresses.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Benson