

Welcome to Class 8!



Autumn Term 1

Welcome back everybody. What a strange but incredible start to the new academic year we have had. Its great to have everybody back in and the atmosphere around school is electric. I do hope you managed to have a brilliant break over the summer and managed to recharge your batteries. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Class 8! For those of you who may not know me, I am Tom Norris and I will be your child's teacher for the next academic year. Alongside myself, Julie Turner and Johnny Robinson will be assisting us in Class 8. The class have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled into our classroom routines brilliantly. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children so far and together I know we can make this year an exciting and successful one. I am really looking forward to the year we have ahead of us and I can't wait to begin exploring the topics we have lined up for the year with the class.



This curriculum letter will inform you of what we will be covering in class during the first half of the Autumn Term. Although the class will be learning about the same topics, both year 4 and year 5 will cover their specific year group expectations. Our topic this half term is 'What makes Britain Great?' and much of our work throughout the different subjects will relate to this.

If you have any queries, concerns, or simply a question, please don't hesitate to call or email me or any member of the senior leadership team. We will be more than happy to help! You can send an email to t.norris@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk.

Please find below information about the various aspects of Class 8...

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out half termly - each half term you will receive a home learning menu. As explained on the menu, you must complete the maths, reading and writing activities but can choose any two options from the other choices from across the curriculum. The homework menu will allow you to be creative and imaginative in what you decide to produce. The hand in date for the activities this half term will be Friday 16th October. Many parents ask if they can help with activities and projects such as this and the answer is most definitely a resounding 'yes!' There is nothing more motivating for a child than an interested adult. The Homework menu has been sent home tonight with this letter.



Spellings

Spellings will be given out on a Friday and will be tested the following Thursday. Children will have their spellings stuck in one side of their spelling book, where they will have space to 'Look, Cover, Write and Check' and tests will be carried out at the back of the book. The spellings they are given will link to the teaching that we are doing in class.



Reading

Every child has been given a school reading book, which continues the whole school system for colour bands. In a change to the usual system, new reading books will be given out on a Monday whilst reading books that are finished can be brought into school on a Friday. This is to allow change for the books to be cleaned and left for 72 hours before they are put back on the shelf. This doesn't mean that you cannot keep a book for longer than a week, we just ask that you stick the above days for collecting and returning books. Children should continue to read aloud to an adult as much as possible. They should focus on reading for meaning - predicting what will happen in the story and why, and also thinking about the characters feelings. As your child progresses through school, it is still a vital part of their learning that you hear them read aloud daily. Naturally, the focus changes and you are no longer working on building up fluency and expression but looking at prediction, deduction and inference. Questions such as 'What do you think . . . will do next?' 'What could happen here?' 'Why is . . . behaving like that?' will help children to develop their higher order reading skills. Please make sure your child has their reading book and journal in school every day.

Please find below our focus for English and Maths this Half Term

English



In English we are reading various adapted versions of 'Gulliver's Travels' by Jonathon Swift. As we become familiar with the story we will be using lots of active reading strategies to make comparisons within the text, infer characters' feelings and thoughts and predict what might happen. Throughout our reading of the story, we will also be identifying determiners and pronouns. We will then plan and write our own stories based on the plot of Gulliver's travels.

Later on in the half term we will move onto a non-fiction unit, which this half term will be non-chronological reports. We will explore our topic of 'Great Britain' in our reading and writing resulting in the children producing their own non-chronological reports on some of the famous geographical features of Great Britain using the organisational and presentational features identified in our reading.

Maths

We continue to use the Maths No Problem scheme in school with great success. The areas covered this half term all relate to number work; place value (numbers up to 10 000 for year 4 and numbers up to 1 000 000 for year 5), addition and subtraction of whole numbers (within 10,000 for year 4), multiplication and division of whole number and graphs. Children will also practice their times tables in class - your support of this at home too is much appreciated.



Attached to this letter is a copy of our Maths and English targets for the year ahead.



The Half Term Ahead

Our Week

Monday

New reading books can be handed out.

Thursday

Spellings tested.
PE - you can come to school in your PE kit.
Remember your Ukulele

Friday

New Spellings handed out.
Finished reading books can be brought back to school.

Foundation topics

Art -
Significant
British
Artists

P.E -
Tag Rugby

Geography -
Land of Hope
and Glory
(Great Britain)

R.E - How and
why do
Christians read
the bible?

French - 'Encore' from
Rigolo - character
descriptions and adjectives.

Science-
Living things
and their
habitats

Computing - Digital
research and creating
content

Music -
Notation/Ukulele

This year Class 8 will also be learning to play the ukulele within music lessons led by Mr Woodward from the Lancashire music service. There is no cost to you as this is just part of our weekly music lesson. The children will soon come home with their ukulele, which they have on loan for this year.

We hope your child has settled in well to Class 8. Many thanks for your continued support!

Mr Tom Norris (Class 8 Teacher)

Miss Louise Darlington (Assistant Head teacher)