



Year 5 and 6 Newsletter

We hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

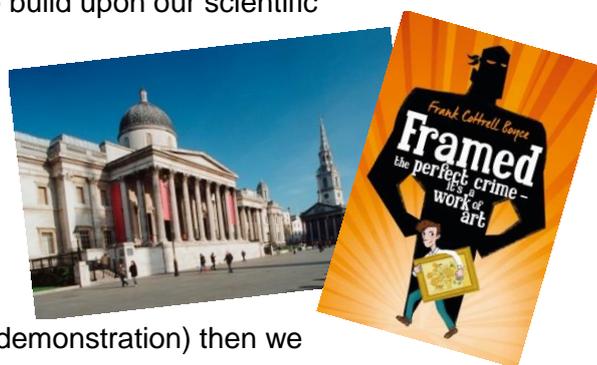
Spring Term Curriculum

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring Term full of learning opportunities. We will begin the term by studying **The Tudors in history** and **Henry VIII's ship, The Mary Rose** (including a visit for all Year 5 / 6 children to see it, on **10th January**). This will make up some of our local history topic.

In the latter part of the term we will move on to study '**The Anglo Saxons**' where we will be acting as **archaeologists** to uncover the secrets of this past culture, looking at how they lived, the battles they fought and the impact they have had on our lives today.

Our first **science** topic is '**Properties and Changes of Materials**' where we will explore the changing state of materials as well as conducting practical experiments to help build upon our scientific experimental skills.

In **art**, our topic is called 'A Sense of Place' and concerns the children viewing their **local surroundings**, analysing how the seasons change the landscape and capturing it on paper. We will also be linking art to one of our reading books this term, '**Framed**' which links nicely to our trip to the **National Gallery, London**. Also, if you are one, or know of any artists that would like to come and speak to the children (and maybe do a demonstration) then we would love to hear from you.



In the first half term, our **English** theme is '**Hidden in Words**' where we will explore a range of ghost stories and 'strange going ons.'

Mock SATs

Mock SATs (Year 6 only) will take place week commencing **21st January (Mon-Thurs)**. This is an opportunity for children to have experience of the test process (and realise that it isn't scary) but it also provides teachers with information to help address gaps. This year we will be trialling doing all Mocks and SATs tests in the classroom rather than the hall (as discussed at the Year 6 information workshop.) It will mean children sitting the tests in two rounds. The aim of this is mainly so that children feel more comfortable as they will be in their own learning environments with more staff available to help read the questions.

Books from Home

We are noticing that some children are visiting the library several times a week or grabbing a book from the book corner when it comes to reading in class time. Please can you encourage your children to bring in the books that they are reading at home (whether this be a home or school book) on a daily basis as building up this pace and consistency of reading is important.

Supporting at Home

We have recently sent home the list of statutory words for your children to continue to practise spelling at home. At the next parents evening, we will be handing the year 6 children some optional test practise examples for you to work through at home. In the meantime, please continue to hear your children read and also practise their tables (if they are still unsure.)

Thanks again for all of your support,

The Year 5/6 Team