



STJB Holly Class

Autumn 2017

"It's music to my ears"
Past and Present

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year and to a fresh start for us all. I hope that you have had a really good summer, especially after some beautiful weather we have been experiencing.

This term is an action packed one, with so many exciting activities and opportunities .

Holly Class will be taught by myself on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and, I am pleased to say, Mrs Pollard will be teaching on Fridays. Mrs Lyle will be the class Teaching Assistant.

Our Topic for the Autumn is a very inspirational one, involving many different creative and imaginative aspects, of the National Curriculum. 'Music' is our theme. We will be looking at creative ways of expressing rhythm in the style of 'Stomp', carrying out a workshop using Tabla Indian drums and receiving visitors with a whole host of musical talents.

In English we will be writing the biographies of two composers, comparing a more traditional artist with a modern composer. This will be followed by composing a persuasive piece of writing linked to the Top 10 composers in the world. Creating music and song for Christmas will follow newspaper articles linked to the RE topic of Creation. A busy time!

In Maths, place value, addition and subtraction will be applied in a variety of real life contexts. Strategies for calculating mentally using our multiplication and division knowledge will be taught along with calculating perimeter of two dimensional shapes.

Children will work throughout the term on obtaining a fast recall of their multiplication facts and number bonds. Weekly assessments will take place and certificates awarded to those children who successfully

achieve the tasks within the 5 minute deadline on three occasions. So lots of practice at home please! We are working on how to apply these skills, as well as the formal methods to 'real life' problems, so that the children can apply their strategies and understand why they are learning them. We will be giving children the opportunities to explain their reasoning and proving their ideas by showing clearly their evidence.

Our Science and Design Technology this term will focus on 'Sound' and 'Electricity'. Mrs Pollard will engage the children in a range of experiments identifying how sounds are made, finding patterns between pitch of a sound and the features of the object that produced it, and volume of sounds related to strength of vibration and the distance from the sound source. In electricity, simple circuits will be constructed using a range of components and common conductors and insulators will be tested.

In Computing, the children will be covering a vitally important area of the curriculum and that is 'e-safety'. It is so important that the children know what to do and what not to do when on the internet or using social media. Visit our school website and go to 'Parent zone' / 'E-safety' for more information on e-safety at our school.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Holly class will be filming their musical compositions and creating photo montages linked to the RE topic of Creation.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in gymnastics and in a variety of invasion games.

In Art, patterns and images created by Victor Vasereley will be the inspiration for the children's own imaginative ideas

Year 5 children will have the opportunity of visiting Chichester Cathedral as part of the 'Friends of Chichester' week of prayer linked in with our Topic on prayer across the school.

The children will need their PE kits for Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

I am so looking forward to starting this new year with the children. The above curriculum provides the vehicle for learning skills, knowledge and concepts. As you well know, St John the Baptist School is so much more than this. Developing the social and communication skills, bringing out the very best from each and every child and nurturing their confidence to be the person that will succeed and thrive in this learning environment that we offer is at the core of the members of staff I work with. Together, you as parents and we as staff, can make such a difference to our children. If you have any questions as to what we are doing or want to talk about anything that would further help your child, then please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school so we can talk together. Thank you Mr. John Cumming