



# STJB Holly Class

September 2018

## The Ancient Egyptians'

## What did they achieve?

Dear Parents,

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

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

Our topic, 'The Ancient Egyptians', involves many different aspects of History (the achievements, when and what?) and Geography (the physical and human aspects).

In English, we will be looking at the story of Joseph from the Bible. From this we will create our own descriptive narratives, focussing on setting the scene, using dialogue and portraying a sense of drama. Letter/diary writing will proceed this, capturing feelings and emotions of the characters of the journey that unfolds. Year 5 children will have the opportunity of performing Twelfth Night in a real theatre! (details to follow). The Christmas story will also play a part in our English for the second half of term (I know! I can't believe I'm even mentioning this celebration so early!)

Our Science this term will focus on 'Forces and Magnets'. Levers, gears and pulleys will also be linked to our Design Technology curriculum. There are some really fun activities for building models linked to the Ancient Egyptians.

In Maths, place value, addition and subtraction will be applied in a variety of real life contexts. Strategies for calculating mentally using multiplication and division will be taught, along with length and perimeter after half term.

Children will continue to 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. 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.

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. Over a series of lessons the children will develop an awareness of the advantages of the web, but also heighten their understanding of the dangers and how to avoid them. We will also learn to apply Microsoft Word and PowerPoint features to our learning. This ties in well with our Open Futures sessions this half term. Holly class will be filming role plays of e-safety scenarios and adding them to their PowerPoint presentations. Next half term Open Futures will focus on P4C linking to our R.E topic including Christmas.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in gymnastics and in a variety of invasion games. **The children will need their PE Kits for Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

In Art, the children will be creating masks that the Egyptians would have worn for the afterlife and also designing and making cartouches.

The children in RE will be researching the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. As well as looking at how the Bible is laid out and organised, we will be discussing issues brought out by the story of telling the truth, how to better yourself and forgiveness. The second half term will focus on the question—was Jesus the Messiah?

Mrs Pollard will be teaching Holly Class again on a Friday. The children thoroughly enjoy her creativity and ability to make learning fun!

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 after school so we can talk together. Thank you. Mr. John Cumming