

Year 5 Newsletter Autumn Term 1

Peasants, Princes and Pestilence

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Year 5 class teacher: I'm Miss Dooley, and I'm really excited to be teaching the same year group again! This half term, our topic is the petrifying 'Peasants, Princes and Pestilence', focusing on the plague (the Black Death) and the Peasants' revolt of 1381.

During **English** lessons, we will be writing our own diary entry narratives based on the historical text, 'Fire, Bed and Bone' by Henrietta Branford, from which we will model our own work. We will also be writing setting descriptions of the forest and woodlands, where we will learn to use high-level vocabulary. We will spend most of our time up-levering our work, learning how to use a thesaurus to improve our choice of words. In the final weeks, we will be exploring poetry, and will write our own poems to personify the evil Pestilence himself!

In **Maths**, we will be securing our knowledge of place value, addition, and subtraction, which will include practising both written and mental methods. Our multiplication knowledge will come in handy here, so we will be using TTRS regularly to keep our times tables up to scratch.

In **RE**, we will be introduced to Sikhism. Our key question this term is, "How far would a Sikh go for their religion?", which will involve examining the history of the religion, the key beliefs, and the ways in which Sikhs may choose to represent their faith through actions and clothing.

In **Humanities**, we will be using our **Geographical** skills to draw and plot maps of where the Black Death originated and ended up spreading to. As **Historians**, we will be learning all about 14th century Europe, and creating timelines of the events surrounding the Great Plague. Throughout, we will also be examining historical sources to see what the causes and cures for the plague really were.

In **Science**, we will be focusing on Properties and Changes of Materials. We will be looking at the properties and uses of materials used in medieval Britain, and we will learn how to report and present our findings from Scientific enquiries.

On Thursday mornings, we are lucky enough to have specialists come in to teach us French, Music and Media!

PE will take place on Tuesdays, and Year 5 will be going swimming at Poplar Baths on Friday afternoons, so remember your swimming kit! This will begin next week, with our first swimming lesson on 15th.

To finish our topic, we will be acting out a medieval scene of our choice: demonstrating the cures for the plagues from inside an apothecary shop; being peasants who are rebelling and revolting with Wat Tyler; or being noblemen celebrating at a medieval banquet.

Finally, please don't hesitate to talk to me or Ms White to raise any questions or queries. We look forward to this coming term!

Miss Dooley and Ms White.