

Class 5

The Bliss Charity School



Term 3



Dear families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you all had a relaxing Christmas break. Here's to 2022 being a better year! This term, Class 5 will be travelling back in time to Ancient China and the era of the Shang Dynasty. It's set to be another excellent term! Please keep up the great work with reading at home – children are making great progress with their reading awards.

Kind regards,

Miss Thompson & Mrs. Jenkinson



Term 3 Topic: *The Shang Dynasty*



The children will be starting the new topic by looking at China's geography – they will be using their atlas skills to identify human and physical features of China, including the Great Wall of China. They will then compare land use in Ancient and Modern China. Following this, children will place the Shang Dynasty in the correct period of time and learn about the social hierarchy during the Shang period of rule by taking on those roles themselves. They will be thinking like archaeologists as they investigate crafts from the Shang period, learn about the religious practice of divination and uncover the significance of Fu Hao's tomb.

In guided reading this term, we will be sharing Philip Pullman's fantastic 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', set in South East Asia.

Literacy lessons will begin with examining instructional texts and their unique features. The children's final writing task will be to imagine a person from the Shang period has been time-travelled to 2022 – what instructions might he or she need in order to fit in? We will then be moving on to design some fireworks for Lila (from our guided reading text), then learning to identify and use persuasive techniques in order to create persuasive advertisements to boost sales.

In art, children will explore the art of Chinese printing and writing, looking at how characters were used on Oracle Bones in the Shang period and tracking their development to modern day Chinese characters; they will then design their own Chinese inspired printing block to create their own repeated pattern.

Other Subjects...

During science, children will be learning all about forces. They will be continuing to develop their investigative skills alongside their knowledge of friction, water resistance and air resistance.

In ICT, children will be developing their programming knowledge, learning to create and debug algorithms so that the Lego robots perform specific tasks successfully and efficiently.

In maths, we will continue to build confidence when working with data and number, consolidating methods, rounding larger numbers and increasing confidence when solving reasoning problems.

DT this term is based around Healthy Eating Week – children will be devising and making their own soup, first carrying out their own market research.

During RE, children will be learning all about Sikhism, particularly focusing on the 5Ks and the Gurus.

French sessions continue to take place on Wednesday mornings and PE continues to follow the Real Gym and Real PE programme.

Helping your child at home ...

Our 'Spelling Bee' will continue to take place every Monday – the new lists should have come home with children before the holiday but are also available on the class page of the website along with the Year 5/6 statutory spellings, which also play a part in the weekly bee:

<https://www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/class-5>. Please keep practising!

Children are doing brilliantly with their reading at home – reading records are taken in on Mondays. Whatever the reading ability of your child, listening to them read aloud regularly and reading with them is still a really useful thing to do.

Children's progress with times tables has also been very impressive – the goal is now for everyone to complete the tables in under 2 minutes!

Learning Log homework has also been fantastic – this will continue to be set on a fortnightly basis with grammar and maths work given in between. Wednesday is the deadline for all homework.

Class 5 information ...

PE lessons this term will be on a Monday following the Real Gym and Real PE scheme. On Fridays, children will be swimming.

Please feel free to share any concerns you or your child may have – just contact the office to organise a telephone conversation.