

Outline of our work for the first half of Autumn Term 2008 - Year 5

Numeracy:

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Place value, whole numbers up to 10,000, mental addition & subtraction, multiplication and division, doubling/halving, estimating numbers up to 10,000, calculator skills, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and proportion.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

Create interesting multiplication games, which can be practiced on the way to or from school. Use estimation in real life situations (such as how many cars do you think are in this car park). Devise links between fractions, percentages, ratios by taking family votes and using the information gathered. Please note that calculators should only to be used when homework states that it should.

Language and Literacy:

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

We begin with note-taking, looking at the main purposes of this genre and the different formats that one may employ such as columns and mind maps. During the term we will be investigating the features of recounts and reports and the use of appropriate language; the use of appropriate tone to reflect subject matter and the acknowledgment of information sources.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

You can help your child by reading various articles in magazines and assessing whether they are first or second hand accounts. Interview a friend or family member who may have an interesting story to tell and have your child take notes as responses are given, then translate them into an article. Read various biographies .

Science:

We will be covering this topic: Changing States – evaporation, condensation, boiling & freezing points of water, reversible changes of state and the water cycle.

We will be developing these skills and concepts

Careful planning of experiments; thinking about our hypothesis; deciding how to carry out a fair test.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

Look for real life examples of evaporation (such as a puddle drying up after a rainstorm), and condensation (steam on a bathroom mirror, or on the car windows on a cold day). When cooking see how long it takes water to boil whilst monitoring the rising temperature with a thermometer. Record the temperature in your freezer.

History:

We will be covering this topic: The lives of rich and poor people in Tudor times – housing, employment, food, hobbies and entertainment.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

Use the internet as a tool to read about everyday life in Tudor times. Compare the living conditions of the poor and rich to those of people today. Read about Tudor food and banquets. See if there are any dishes which are still served today. If visiting the UK on holiday anytime soon, see if you can arrange a trip to a Tudor castle.

Geography:

We will be covering this topic: Water everywhere.

We will be developing these skills and concepts:

Mapping skills, reading coordinates, looking at the processes water goes through to be cleaned. Investigating various locations around the world where water may be found in abundance or in short supply (e.g. deserts). We will also be looking at how water affects people in these regions.

How you can help at home and during the holidays:

Using an atlas or the internet, see if you can map where some of the world's major rainforests and deserts occur. Do the children perhaps see a pattern in the distribution of these features. Take a trip to the Jardin Botanique in Geneva so the children can experience the humidity of a real rainforest in one of the large greenhouses.