

**INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE LANCY**  
**ENGLISH SECTION**

**Outline of our work for Spring Term – first half – Year 5 – Mr Milad**

**Numeracy:**

***We will be developing these skills and concepts:***

We will be commencing with a short unit on place value and moving forwards to revisiting multiplication and division, mainly to strengthen our mental calculation strategies. The children will be halving and doubling so they are able to multiply larger numbers by 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100. We will then be moving onto fractions and decimals, rehearsing the decimal notation for tenths and hundredths and then transforming decimals into fractions and vice versa. Our following unit will be about 3-d shapes. The children will be classifying various 3-d shapes based on their properties, as well as learning appropriate vocabulary. Continuing with shapes we will then move onto the concept of rotation, which will bring us to our final unit of the half term on position and direction.

***How you can help at home and during the holidays:***

Continue practicing times tables with your children (this is an area that needs constant strengthening). You can do this in a variety of ways, such as songs, chants, games etc. This can also be used to count up and down in fives, tens, twenty-fives, fifties and hundreds. When cooking see if you can divide food into various fractions (pizza is great for this), then try and relate to the fraction's decimal counterpart. Identify various 3-d shapes in your house and local area. Look for the various properties that identify each shape. Buy your child a navigational compass so they are familiar with position and direction.

**Language and Literacy:**

***We will be developing these skills and concepts:***

We will be starting the new term by looking at traditional stories and fables. We will look through various fables, discussing the main features of them, as well as their structure. We will then be moving onto another unit on poetry, focusing on longer classic poetry, such as ballads. This will bring us to a longer unit on myths and legends. The children will be given the chance to read a variety of myths as well as writing their own.

***How you can help at home and during the holidays:***

Track down a copy of Aesop's Fables and read through them with your child, discuss the recurring themes, such as morals and animals characters. Look at poetry books and online for various ballads. A good children's poetry website is [www.cswnet.com/~erin/child.htm](http://www.cswnet.com/~erin/child.htm). Have a go at perhaps writing a ballad with your child. The same applies to myths and legends. Are there any myths you know yourself, perhaps originating from your country.

**Science:**

***We will be covering these topics:***

Changing sounds.

***We will be developing these skills and concepts:***

We will be observing how sounds are made through vibrations, looking at how sound travels. The children will be devising an experiment to prevent sound from travelling, as well as altering it. We will be learning the different between pitch and volume, particularly of stringed and wind instruments.

***How you can help at home and during the holidays:***

Look at the various appliances in your house that make noise, discuss if they are louder or quieter when you are in different rooms. If you have a guitar or other stringed instrument, investigate how pitch can be altered by tightening or loosening the guitar's strings. Also discuss ways to make the instrument louder. You may want to look at various materials with your child that would be good for preventing sound from travelling, such as newspaper, bubble wrap or a blanket.

**\*History:**

***We will be covering this topic:***

After successfully completing or topic on the Tudors, we will now move onto the ancient civilisation of the Aztecs, looking primarily at their daily lives, rituals and gods. We will commence with the founding of the Aztec empire and its rapid growth. We will also look at its downfall and the forces/people behind it, such as Hernán Cortés. We will be investigating their belief in sacrifice, in order to please their gods as well as everyday society. A unit on the lives of Aztec children will also be completed so the children can draw comparisons to their modern day lives.

***We will be developing these skills and concepts:***

We will continue to improve our map reading skills when looking at maps of Mexico. The children will also continue to conduct independent research outside of school so that various reports may be written. We will also discuss the controversial idea of an actual sacrifice. Our artistic skills will also be tested as this unit provides an ideal opportunity to create some Aztec arts and crafts ourselves.

***How you can help at home and during the holidays:***

Search local libraries for any books on Aztec life or exploration, as well as the internet for further information.

**\*Geography:**

***We will be covering this topic:***

Our new unit geography unit will be based on "Traffic Problems." We will be looking at the various methods of transport utilised by humans and the impact it has on the planet. We will then move onto road traffic and the problems which may be caused by it. We hope to carry out an actual traffic survey as well. Once the children have located these problems, they will work towards ways of solving them.

***We will be developing these skills and concepts:***

Mapping skills will continue to be reinforced as well our numeracy data handling skills, as we devise our own surveys, collect the data and finally represent it in the form of graphs. The children will also be introduced to the concept of debating when trying to think of suitable solutions to problems presented by traffic.

***How you can help at home and during the holidays:***

Look around your hometown, and identify what major forms of transport are used there. Do these forms of transport cause you or your community any problems? Think of sensible ways to overcome these problems (i.e. increased use of public transport). Perhaps conduct a small traffic survey of your own with your child, based on the traffic that passes down your actual road.

*\* The above units for both Geography and History are designed to last one whole term. This term, Year 5 will be alternating Geography and History each week, therefore the work mentioned above will actually take the whole spring term to complete.*