

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

**Outline of our work for the second half of the Spring Term – Year 5**

**Numeracy:**

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

We will be commencing with a unit on measurement, which will cover area and perimeter. The children will learn to measure areas in square centimetres and understand the formula 'length x breadth/width = area.' We will then move onto calculating the perimeter of rectangles and regular polygons. We will also be completing a short unit on data handling and line graphs. We will be then revisiting addition and subtraction, strengthening our mental skills and practicing adding and subtracting numbers in their thousands. The children will also be encouraged to come up with their own techniques for solving problems which they will share with their classmates. Finally we will be looking at properties of numbers, testing their divisibility and working with factors.

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

Measure various objects or rooms in your house. Try and find out their area and perimeter. This will also reinforce your child's abilities to measure objects accurately with a ruler or tape measure. Keep on practicing multiplication tables (this area always needs constant reinforcement). Ask your child various addition and subtraction problems and ask them how "they" would solve them.

**Language and Literacy:**

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

As we commence the second half of the spring term we will be finishing our topic on myths and legends. We will then be moving onto a two week topic on note-taking and explanation texts. Last term the children took notes on a presentation about Dian Fossey and mountain gorillas. They will now need to transform those notes into a comprehensive piece of writing. The children will also be looking through a variety of informational texts and reinforcing their research skills (i.e. using indexes, contents pages, scanning for a certain piece of information). This leads nicely to our final topic of the term which will be on non-chronological reports. Here the children will be writing factual reports and actually trying to develop an impersonal style to their writing. They will also be learning how to record and acknowledge sources in their own writing.

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

Continue investigating various myths and legends with your child. Ask them to recount some of the myths they have learned about in school so far. For note-taking they could perhaps interview a family member who has an interesting story to tell. They could then transfer that into an article and share it with the whole class. Pour over non-fiction books and identify features such as the contents and index pages. Also check to see if there is bibliography at the back of the book.

**Science:**

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

Healthy living.

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

We will be looking at the importance of a balanced diet and studying the food groups. We will examine the effects a poor diet can have on someone, as well as other unhealthy lifestyle options such as drugs, tobacco and alcohol. The children will have the opportunity to study the heart and lungs to gain an understanding of how they can be affected by our choice of diet or by how much or little we exercise.

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

Make a week long list of the foods you eat at home. Discuss whether you think this is a balanced diet or not. If not, how could you improve it? You could try a few simple exercises together and then measure your pulse rates afterwards. This could also form a nice graph, which could be linked to our Numeracy topic on data handling. Finally, feel free to discuss the various effects drugs, tobacco and alcohol can have on your levels of health.

**\*History: The information here for History and Geography was printed on the last newsletter.**

**As mentioned we are alternating the two subjects week by week this term, so what you see below is a layout for 5 weeks of work (10 weeks in total between the two subjects).**

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

After successfully completing our 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 Hernàn 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.*