



Ethical, Equity, Empathy, Excellence, Evolution, Endurance

The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treco. It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Spring Term - GIGS

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

After a lovely Christmas break we have hit the ground running! This term will be very busy, with lots of learning progress and events. Below I am highlighting the usual logistical information, as well as a breakdown of the curriculum content we will be covering in school. Please use this information to support and discuss your child's learning with them at home. As always, I will update you on any changes.

School Day

Each morning will include Phonics, English and Maths, whilst the afternoons focus on foundation subjects such as P.E. and Science. Our learning content will always be flexible depending on the children's needs and progress. The children also have lots of continuous provision time, where they learn with the resources around the classroom.

We are also timetabled in for the following lessons each week with specialist staff:

Monday afternoon - French, then Religion and World Views.

Tuesday afternoon - Music, then PE

Wednesday afternoon - Music

Reading and Phonics

This is an important term for progress in Phonics. We have laid the foundations in the Autumn term, and this term they will be learning lots of new sounds and blending skills. Jodie has just assessed the children so they will be put into the correct groups for their phonics knowledge. Please prioritise reading your child's book with them every day, and



The Five Islands Academy website can be accessed via: www.fiveislands.scilly.sch.uk

going through the sound books with them (green books for Reception and yellow books for Year 1). It will be amazing to see their progress this term!

Your child is sent home with their Reading Diary and an appropriate reading book. Please read and talk about the book and their sound cards (in their sound books) with your child every night. It is essential to their development and makes such a big impact on their learning progress. Each time they read at home they will be rewarded with a star stamp inside their Reading Diary. Once their sticker chart is full it can be swapped for a prize from the box of surprises! Any questions about your child's reading and phonics please contact me, or Jodie as phonics lead will be happy to help you with anything. Her contact details are jodiesimutis@fiveislands.org.

Spring term 1 Year 1 Topic

For the first half term we have a Geography focus exploring the question 'Where in the world do these people live?'. In this unit, the children take four different world journeys. Starting with their local area, they then look at coastal, rainforest, dry (desert) and world city locations.

Spring Term 2 Year 1 Topic

In the second half term we have a History focus exploring the question 'Who were the greatest explorers?'. In this unit, the children will investigate the lives and journeys of five explorers from various eras: Ibn Battuta, Captain Cook, Roald Amundsen, Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sunita Williams. They will study an explorer from different perspectives, discussing what makes an explorer 'great', and who might not think that.

Spring 1 Reception Topic

Alongside the Year 1 topics, Reception also follow their own specific themes for their age level every few weeks. For the first half term these include:

- Customs around the world
- Winter
- Around the world (sea, rainforest, safari, towns + maps)

Spring 2 Reception Topic

Alongside the Year 1 topics, Reception also follow their own specific themes for their age level every few weeks. For the second half term these include:

- Explorers
- Historical figures
- Pirates
- Space
- Dinosaurs

Maths

Please follow the link below to look at the scheme of learning for your child. We are completing the Spring Term Unit Blocks for each year group.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths>

Science

In the first half term we will be studying 'Animals including humans'. The children will learn about five of the groups that scientists use to classify animals: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They will learn to identify the group an animal belongs to by its features and will classify animals according to their group. They will also learn about the different diets animals eat. We will learn about the parts of the human body and have the opportunity to explore the five senses through a simple investigation.

In the second half term, we will study 'Seasonal Changes', looking at the changes between winter, spring and summer. The children will continue to observe, measure and record the weather in different seasons and will start to make comparisons between two seasons, as well as across all four seasons. They will also observe changes across the seasons by exploring the signs of spring and summer through nature and wildlife.

P.E.

Gigs Class will have PE on a Tuesday afternoon. Please can the children come in their PE kits to school, but bring a coat in case it is needed at lunchtime. Children with long hair must tie it back at all times for health and safety.

Art

In Art we are studying various topics (such as watercolour and sculpture) - we will share our creations with you and occasionally bring them home!

PSHE

We will be looking at some of the following themes in PSHE:

- Setting goals, endurance, achieving together
- Healthy choices, road safety, medicine safety

Computing

In Computing Year 1 are learning how to programme and making our own Robot Maze in Scratch Junior!

Contact and communication

I use Seesaw to share your child's learning so you can support and encourage your child's work at home. Any essential information will also be sent by Parentmail as well as Seesaw. There will also be weekly updates in the school Newsletter!

If you ever have any questions about your child's education or wellbeing, or queries about school logistics, please do email me - timbarrass@fiveislands.org or message me on Seesaw.

We have a great Spring Term ahead with the children! As always, thank you for your support towards your child's education.

Yours faithfully

Tim Barrass, Jodie Simutis, Tana Rosalez, Rosie Tocknell, Ashleigh Lawson
Reception/Y1 Cove team