



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to a new year, with new exciting topics and activities.

Things will look and feel a little different this year: lots of handwashing; eating dinner in the classroom, altered end of day arrangements and coming to school in PE kit on PE days, however this shouldn't stop us from learning some interesting things and exploring new topics.

This letter aims to give you a flavour of what is coming up in this first term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

hrogers@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk



Topic: Peasants, Princes and Pestilence

At the start of this half term, we'll meet a strange character and use a range of source materials to research the symptoms of the Black Death.

Our geography skills will help us understand how the black death came to Britain and why it spread so quickly.

We'll investigate the effects of bacteria on the human body and find out about disgusting and dangerous plague 'cures'.

Our personal plague journals will record the horror of the black death and we'll write poetry inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer.

We'll learn about the 'dance of death' and perform dances inspired by Saint-Saen's Danse Macabre.

We'll learn about different social classes, understand the reasons for the Peasants' Revolt, take part in a mock battle and learn what it was like to be a knight.

At the end of the topic, we'll find out about the Black Death through history and make a timeline of outbreaks around the world.

We'll learn about life cycles of animals, including rats.

A medieval tournament will also be planned to showcase our knowledge of medieval knights and demonstrate our jousting skills.

English and Maths

Our English will be linked to the topic work, and much of it will involve presentation work and the keeping of a journal to record our work. Genres we will cover will include stories, journals, poetry, persuasive speech, letters. Here are some books which link to our topic

BOOK LIST:

Children of Winter Berlie Doherty
Deadly Diseases (Horrible Science) Nick Arnold
Measly Middle Ages (Horrible Histories) Terry Deary
Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess Richard Platt
Deadly Diseases and Curious Curses Anna Claybourne
Palaces, Peasants and Plagues: England in the 14th Century (Collins Big Cat) Richard Platt
The Mysterious World of Micro-organisms (Collins Big Cat) Isabel Thomas
Knights and Castles (The Usborne Time Traveller) Judy Hindley
Knight (DK Eyewitness) DK
Avoid Being in a Medieval Castle!

(The Danger Zone) Jacqueline Morley
Kiss of Death Malcolm Rose
The Children of Green Knowe and The River at Green Knowe Lucy M. Boston
A Medieval Knight (How to Live Like) Anita Ganeri

MATHS

This half term will focus on place value and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Weekly homework will usually be set. This will be done online using My Maths Primary. You will be sent details of your child's login with this newsletter.



TIMES TABLES

These are absolutely **ESSENTIAL** for the maths we cover in Years 5

& 6. Please can I ask that your child plays on TT Rockstars for at least 5 minutes on a daily basis? It will be the most useful support you can give them for maths.

Lunch Times

In order to ensure the Infant and Junior Bubbles do not mix at lunchtimes, the Junior Bubble will spend their second lunch time break on the field. As the weather gets colder and wetter through Autumn into Winter, we anticipate the fields becoming quite muddy.

Please ensure that your child has a pair of shoes in school which are suitable for outside play on the field.



PE

At the current time there will be no swimming for schools. We anticipate this may start after October Half Term, however we will let you know as soon as we can when things change.

PE will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. Tuesday lessons will

be led by Mrs Scully, and Friday lessons by Premier Sport. Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays.



