



# THE TERRIBLE TUDORS



In **Maths**, we will continue to work on securing some of our formal written methods; looking at the short and long methods for multiplication. We will also be teaching the short method for division (also known as the bus stop method) and begin to look at how remainders could be recorded. After this, we will be moving onto our second unit of fractions. We will be covering: multiplying fractions by an integer, finding a fraction of an amount and using fractions as operators. We will also begin our unit on decimals and percentages, which will continue into Spring 2.

Our main topic driver is **History** this half term as we learn all about the Tudors. The children will be investigating the question of, "Who was the greatest Tudor monarch?", focusing on the reigns of King Henry VIII and his second daughter Queen Elizabeth I. Using a variety of primary (court portraits, diaries and letters) and secondary sources (encyclopaedias, websites and biographies), the children will explore how these two monarchs ensured they were perceived as powerful. We will also look at the Tudor influence in Basingstoke through a study of Basing House and The Wyne, which were visited by royalty in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries!

In **Science**, we will continue to learn about Properties and Changes of Materials. The children will use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated through filtering, sieving, magnetism and evaporation. They will identify reversible and irreversible changes through changes of state and the formation of new materials. The children will conclude the topic with an investigation into the reaction between Alka-Selzer tablets and water!

In **English** we have some exciting writing opportunities ahead! We are starting by reading a section of the book; Spy Master. The story is set in Tudor Britain and is all about a young boy, who ends up working for Thomas Cromwell, under the reign of Henry VIII. We are going to use this as a stimulus for writing our own stories, whilst perfecting some of our grammar skills including how to use brackets, dashes and commas for parenthesis.

Weekly spelling lessons, Grammar lessons, daily Groovy Grammar or Handwriting, and daily reading tasks all contribute to our English curriculum too. Don't forget you can see the children's fortnightly spellings on Spelling Shed!

In **French**, the children will be learning how to talk about the weather and present a weather forecast.

Our **PSHE** will continue to be taught through HeartSmart this half term, exploring the principle, "Too Much Selfie, Isn't Healthy." Having thought about the value we should place on our own hearts, we now begin to revisit how we can look after the hearts of others. We will also have specific lessons on mental health and wellbeing this half term.

**Music** will involve developing composition skills, inspired by the Hindu Holi Festival of Colour.

In **RE**, children will explore the key question 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' and focus on the eight key events in Moses' life.

**PE** will take place twice a week and will continue to be on Tuesdays (outdoor - Basketball) and Fridays (indoor - gym). The children will still need to come to school in their PE kits on these days, with extra layers for warmth. Please also remember that earrings must be removed or taped and long hair must be tied back. Thank you.

Our **Art** this half term will be focussed around our history topic of The Terrible Tudors. The children will explore different media used to sketch portraits and how to achieve the correct proportions.

**\*NEW\*** Following feedback from parents, we are reintroducing formal **homework** to Year 5 children. The children will be set a piece of SPaG homework to complete each fortnight. It will be due in every other Wednesday. The first piece will be set on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**, due in **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. We will move to weekly homework later in the school year. Hopefully this will help to prepare children for the homework they will receive in Year 6 and then beyond in secondary school. Children will use some of their lunchtime to catch up on missed homework as required.

**Computing** will focus on stop motion animation. We will use an app on the iPads to create our own short animations linked to the Tudors, which we will evaluate and edit before publishing our final versions. We will also develop our understanding of different vocabulary including 'onion skinning' and 'frame'.