

THE AMERICAS CLASS

Newsletter



Welcome to The Americas Class! We are excited for the new school year ahead and the children have already made a brilliant start to the year - settling well, demonstrating their interest in learning and sharing their sense of humour! The children are quickly picking up routines and new ways of working, listening carefully to instructions and working hard... and have done all of this with smiling faces. We are really excited for the year to come and all that we will achieve together in Capybara Class.

Journey of Discovery

This year, our 'Journey of Discovery' will be focused on North and South America. Across the year, we will be finding out about North and South America's geographical features, learning about some of the people who live in these continents and considering the impact of different civilisations.

This half term, our Journey of Discovery is 'Stars, Stripes and States'. We will be embarking on a road-trip of research around North America, stopping to see the most interesting sights, learning about North American geography, culture and art – to name a few. The children will begin by looking at the 'discovery' of America – and whether or not you can discover a place if people already live there!

English

Writing: This half term, we will be focussing on 'Gorilla' by Anthony Brown, studying his magical night-time journey to write adventure stories of our own. After that, we will be adopting the role of astronauts to write our own transmissions from space.

Reading: In Book Talk sessions, we will be reading 'The Indian in the Cupboard' by Lynne Reid Banks – ask your child about what's happening so they can keep you up to date! One of the best ways to support children's writing is to help them develop a love of reading – whether that's stories, poetry, graphic novels or even recipes. We are both passionate about children's reading, and think it is essential that the children are enjoying what they are reading. Please do get in touch if your child is struggling to find a book they would like to read, and we will do our best to help them find something. To help your child with their reading, we do ask your help to encourage your child to read **at least** 3 times a week at home and record this in their reading record.

Maths

We will be continuing to use the Power Maths scheme of work, which helps children become fluent in answering calculations as well as developing their mathematical thinking skills with problem solving challenges and mathematical reasoning questions. This half term we will be focusing on

place value, helping the children gain in confidence and understanding of numbers up to 1,000,000, before using this understanding in developing their knowledge of addition and subtractions, using 'formal' methods (i.e. column addition and subtraction) and mental calculations. Next half term we will be applying this learning in statistics (looking at tables and graphs), finding out about prime, square and cube numbers, and deepening understanding of area and perimeter. Throughout the term, we will also regularly do arithmetic in Year 5 to help keep all four mathematical operations present in the children's minds, through regular recall. Please encourage your child to continue to practise their multiplication tables as these will be essential this year.

PE/Swimming

This half term we will have our PE lessons on Tuesday. Please ensure that your child comes to school in PE kit on this day, and that earrings are removed or that tape is provided. Our PE kit is as follows: a jade or white T-shirt, black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, a plain coloured, round-necked sweatshirt and trainers. No hoods, zips, logos or patterns.

Swimming will be on a Wednesday. Swimming kits should consist of suitable swimwear, **a swimming hat** and a towel. Goggles are permitted but not recommended as basic lifesaving skills are taught and in the event of an actual water-related emergency it would be unlikely that children would be wearing them.

Music

We will be having clarinet lessons every Tuesday. The children will be provided with clarinets, which eventually they will be able to take home. If your child brings their clarinet home, please ensure that it is brought back into school **every** Tuesday – the children are welcome to bring them in on a Monday and store them over night in school.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or their time in school, please do get in touch. We cannot reply to any messages on Class Dojo, but you can catch us briefly at the door in the morning to arrange a meeting, pass messages through the office or send an email to admin@risbyprimary.com.

With best wishes,

Mrs Rebecca Beers and the Year 5 team

Key dates

Thursday 17th September: Meet the teacher 3pm

Thursday 24th September: Harvest Festival at St Giles Church

Wednesday 7th September: Individual School Photos

Monday 19th/ Wednesday 21st October: Parent Consultations

Friday 23rd October: PD Day

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October: Half term

Friday 20th November: Children In Need

Tuesday 15th December: Christmas Performance 2pm and 6pm

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas dinner and craft day