



The Kingdom of Benin

Year 5 - Terms 3 and 4

Dear Parents,

Our new topic for Terms 3 and 4 will focus on the Kingdom of Benin. We would like to share with you an overview of what the children will be learning.

Big questions

Our studies into the kingdom of Benin will focus on the following questions:

Why do we learn about Benin in school?

What sort of place was Benin 1,000 years ago and how do we know?

What can we tell about Benin society from the images and artefacts that have survived?

What changes took place when the European settlers started trading?

What changes took place when the European settlers started trading?

Soap, Margarine and tyres: Why did the British get involved in Benin and what were the effects for the Benin people?

Should the bronzes be returned to Benin?

The children will learn about the kingdom, how it was ruled and when it ended. They will learn that Benin is located west of Nigeria and was a civilisation of cities and towns. They will learn that it consisted of powerful kings and had a large empire which traded over long distances. The children will discover that Benin's craftsmen were skilled in bronze and ivory and the people of Benin worshiped many gods, told stories about them and held ceremonies for them.

There will be plenty of opportunity for seeing Benin artefacts and relics and the children will also have ample chance to re-live history through role play and drama. They have a great topic ahead!

Some subjects are taught separately to the topic as these subjects have their own themes. Within the other subjects however, if a link can be made, we will teach the subject skills in relation to the topic theme. For instance, in art, we will use clay to create clay tiles using the Benin Bronzes as inspiration and in Design Technology; we will focus on food preparation in relation to Benin food.

We hope that both you and the children enjoy the new topic and that you can share with them some of their learning experiences.

Many thanks

Mrs. Moran and Mr Forrester