

Year 6 Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after what I am sure was a busy but festive Christmas break. It is going to be a very busy term indeed with lots of exciting activities planned linked to our new topic: 'Intrepid Explorers'. We will focus on two different areas of exploration: deserts and rainforests using two key texts. The first being 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and the second being the 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson.

Topic

Linked to Art & DT/Music

This term our unit will focus on aspects of exploration. We will use 'Holes' as a stimulus to find out about famous desert explorers and write flashback stories linked to their narratives. We will create aboriginal inspired paintings and use this to create our own art gallery to share with the rest of the school. After half term, we change our area of focus to the rainforest concentrating on the discovery and modern day issues of deforestation. We will use this to prepare for our own debate where some of the class will take part in a debating competition at County Hall.



Science

Living things including humans

- To describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals
- To give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

The children will be taught to:

Evolution

The children will be taught to:

- to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago
- to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- to identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.



French

The children will be having French lessons every Friday with Madame Taylor who is a language specialist.

PE/Enrichment

PE will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term and they will have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of PE sessions. However, the children should have their PE kit in every day as sometimes timetables do change. Please can all children have suitable outdoor trainers – they will get muddy!



The class will also take part in cookery, sewing and gardening sessions as part of Enrichment. I will remind children as the weather deteriorates that appropriate outdoor clothing such as wellies might be needed on Thursdays.

Literacy



In Literacy, the whole school is now using a 'topic based' approach. This means that all of our writing this term will be linked to our 'Intrepid Explorers' unit. During the term, we will write flashback stories, biographies, balanced argument writing and poetry.

The children will also have 3 guided reading sessions a week which will have a strong focus on reading comprehension. They will continue to have focused spelling sessions differentiated according to their ability and there will be a strong emphasis on grammar and punctuation.

How you can help your child:

- *Please try to read regularly with your child. Reading aloud helps them to decompose new words and understand their meaning. Therefore developing your child's vocabulary. It is also important for your child to hear you read to them as you model good reading habits.*
- *Talk about the books they are reading: What was their favourite bit? Did they have a favourite character? What do they think will happen next? Lots of discussion helps develop children's language and understanding of the text.*

Maths



All teaching and learning in maths will be planned according to your child's current ability and target. Part of each lesson is devoted to mental maths and all the children are working towards increasing and improving their mental and written calculation strategies. The mathematical topics of place value, addition and subtraction, classifying numbers, 3D shape, fraction and coordinates will be covered during the term following the revised National Curriculum. The children will develop their understanding of times tables up to 12 x 12 and will be given weekly tests. They will also have weekly arithmetic tests.

How you can help your child:

- *Encourage mental maths skills such as adding and subtracting differing amounts.*
- *Rehearse times table facts and related division facts.*
- *Provide opportunities for practical measuring in metres, cm, and mm.*
- *Give them experience of handling and identifying money, working out costs of items and change. When shopping work out which offers are cheaper and by how much.*
- *Support your child in telling the time on analogue and digital clocks.*

SATS

During the week beginning 13th May 2019, the children will be sitting their Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). Children will be preparing for these as part of normal classroom practice and should not be worrying about them. To give you more information about SATs we will be holding a parents' meeting on 24th January at 5:30pm.

Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. I am always happy to see parents at a convenient time.

Mrs A Pinsent
Year 6 Teacher and English Lead

