

Year 6 Class Newsletter Autumn 2022

Welcome to Year 6's first newsletter of the new school year. I hope that you had a restful summer break. I would also like to thank you for the kind words of welcome that I have received from many of you. I am delighted to be teaching the children of Year 6 and during the first two weeks, I have been so impressed with the class's behaviour and their attitude to their learning. We have lots of exciting learning ahead so please see the following information for details of what the children will be studying:

English: We have started to read Roald Dahl's 'Boy: Tales of Childhood'. The children will be reflecting and responding to the text in various ways to develop their writing, comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. We will be covering a range of writing genres, using 'Boy' as our stimulus. These will include some of the following: descriptive writing, instructional texts, persuasive writing, diaries and letter writing. In addition, the children will be looking at the features of biographies and autobiographies. The children will produce a biography about a famous person who they feel inspired by, followed by their own autobiography.

For the rest of the term, we will be linking our English work and guided reading sessions to our History topic on World War II. We will be looking at several texts linked to the topic. These include 'Carrie's War' by Nina Bowden and 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian. We will use these texts to inspire our own narrative writing about World War II. We will focus on the use of figurative language and personification to create strong imagery. This will also be achieved through our poetry work. Additionally, we will also look at non-fiction writing and in particular the features of journalistic writing. We will create newspaper reports based on the historic events of the war.

Throughout the term, we will also be looking closely at grammar terminology and revising the different word classes and applying them in our writing. We will also look at different sentence types and in particular the structure of complex sentences, as well as the use of higher-level punctuation.

Maths: As a school, we will continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme and supplement it with other resources. This has been slightly adapted this year to include revision of some of the key Year 5 objectives. During the first half-term, the children will focus mainly on 'Number and Place Value', 'Addition and Subtraction' and 'Multiplication and Division'. The key focus will be on securing and enhancing their arithmetic skills. Here is a brief overview of the key objectives that we will cover during the first half-term:

Number and Place Value: Read, write, order and compare numbers and determine the value of each digit in numbers up to 10,000,000; round numbers to the nearest

power of ten e.g. 10, 100 and 1000; interpret negative numbers in context; solve number problems that involve place value.

Addition and Subtraction: Add and subtract numbers using formal written methods; solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts.

Multiplication and Division: Practise short and long multiplication; use the method of short division including with remainders; understand and use long division; revise factors, multiples, square, cube and prime numbers; use mental calculations for estimation; understand and use the order of operations (BODMAS); solve multi-step problems which involve all four operations.

During the second half-term, we will focus on 'Fractions' as well as 'Geometry'. Here is a brief overview of the key objectives that we will cover during the second half-term:

Fractions: Find equivalent fractions and understand how to simplify them; convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions and vice versa; compare and order fractions; add and subtract fractions / mixed numbers; multiply and divide fractions / mixed numbers; find fractions of amounts.

Geometry: 'Position and Direction': Read and plot coordinates in all four quadrants; translate and reflect shapes in all four quadrants; solve problems involving coordinates, translations and reflections.

Throughout these topics, the children will be looking at developing their using and applying skills, mathematical reasoning and mental arithmetic.

Science: This term, we will study two topics:

1. Animals including Humans (First half term) – We will be identifying the main parts of the human circulatory system and describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. The children will then look at the importance and impact that diet, smoking, exercise and drugs have on the body.
2. Review Earth, Space and Forces - We will review and develop the children's learning from Year 5 on Earth, Space and Forces. We will describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system and the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth. We will use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky. We will explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object and identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces. We will also recognise some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears.

Religious Education: Our topic for the first half term will be 'The Kingdom of God'. The children will be looking at scripture closely and eliciting its message about God's Kingdom and what it means to them.

After half-term, the topic will be 'Justice'. The children will discuss this key value and think about the need to be committed to their faith. They will also learn about the preparation for Christmas during Advent.

History: This term our topic will be World War II. The children will be looking at the reasons Britain went to war, what it was like to remain in London during the time, the evacuation of children, the use of rationing, the role of women, as well as key battle dates from the period. We will be looking briefly at Anne Frank and touching on the Holocaust. Over the second half of the term, the children will be asked to work in groups to research a particular area of interest and to present their findings to the rest of the class.

Computing: This term we will be reminding the children about the importance of e-safety. They will know how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private. We will also learn how to use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked. They will also learn about the opportunities available for communication and collaboration through blogging. We will also use 'Scratch' to design, write and debug programs. Through these topics, the children will also develop their vocabulary related to computing terminology.

Art: Our Art work this term will be cross-curricular, linking particularly to our work in English and History on 'Boy' and World War II. The children will have opportunities to develop their sketching skills, looking at the work of illustrators such as Quentin Blake. They will also look closely at propaganda posters, creating their own using different techniques.

PE: This term, Year 6 will participate in PE lessons on Thursdays. The children must ensure that they wear the correct PE kit to school on this day along with their hats and blazers. They must also ensure that their trainers are plain black or white. The children will learn about net/wall games and striking/fielding games. This includes tennis, badminton, volleyball and cricket.

Homework: Homework will be set on Friday and will be due on the following Thursday. Children will be given an English and Maths task, as well as topic tasks every few weeks. Spelling lists will also be given for the children to learn.

All children will be asked to read for at least 20 minutes at home each night. They should also be working on ensuring that they are fully secure in the rapid recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12, as well as identifying related division facts and

square numbers. The children will complete timed times tables challenges in class to help increase the pace of their recall. The children should try to complete homework as independently as possible. If you assist your child with a task or you feel they are spending a great deal of time completing work set, it would be useful for you to annotate on their work so that I am aware of this.

If children do not complete all of their homework or fail to hand it in on time, they will miss part of their lunchtime break to complete it. I would also like to remind parents that the messaging facility on Google Classroom is for the children only. If you would like to communicate with me, you must do so via the school office (by phone or email). Any messages will then be passed on to me.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. I am looking forward to this term and year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mr Gould