

January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the Year 6 team! We hope that you and your family had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. This letter is to keep you informed about some of the work that the children will be doing during the Spring Term.



Theme - DISASTER!

This term, our topic is 'DISASTER'. Within this theme, the children will be learning about how, why and where disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes occur. This is a 'STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths' based theme and will offer the children plenty of opportunities to learn about natural and man-made phenomena. In science, the children will be learning more about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes and earthquakes occur. This will link with geography where they will become more confident in using atlases and maps to locate countries and geographical features. One historical event we will focus on is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and how it affected the people in Pompeii and Herculaneum. Another part of topic will include the opportunity to design and make structures to withstand earthquakes and other disasters. Moving on to looking at man-made disasters, we will explore ways in which British society can become more sustainable through clean energy sources and reducing, reusing and recycling the waste that we produce. If you have any particular experiences or knowledge relating to our disaster theme that you feel would benefit the children's learning, please speak to one of the Year 5/6 team!



English

During this term, the children will continue to cover a range of different reading and writing genres whilst developing their understanding of grammar and punctuation. Initially the children will be researching and reading a range of non-fiction texts, linked to natural disasters such as flooding. This will give the children a good basis to be able to compose and write their own Newspaper Article. Following this, the children will have the opportunity to write for a different purpose and audience by studying a well-known fiction text, with the aim of writing their very own short adventure story! Later in the term, the children will study well-known poets, comparing and critiquing their poems, before going on to do further work on both the fiction and non-fiction strands of the National Curriculum. We particularly look forward to the children writing their fiction piece, which will explore the volcanic eruption in Pompeii, from the viewpoint of a certain character.



Throughout the spring term, the Year 6 children will also have extra revision opportunities built into English & mathematics lessons in readiness for the Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) that all Year 6 children nationally will sit between Monday 14th and Thursday 17th May 2018. Before then, of course, we intend to give you further information about these tests and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. There will be a Year 6 SATs parents meeting on Tuesday 30th January 2018. A letter about this will be sent out shortly.

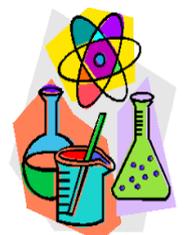
Mathematics

Throughout the term, the children will cover work including place value of numbers and in particular will develop a greater understanding of value of different digits. They will learn more about fractions, decimals and percentages as well as solving problems involving ratio and proportion. Algebraic Formulae will also be explored, with the children learning how to write, interpret and use formulae to solve number problems. Underpinning this work will be a continued focus on developing and refining methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using formal written methods.

The children will also examine the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and develop vocabulary associated with these. In particular, children will learn about symmetry, measuring angles and finding the area & perimeter of shapes. Units of measure will also be explored and how to judge which unit is most appropriate when measuring and converting. Across all areas of maths, the children will have the opportunity to apply their understanding in investigations and through problem solving activities, often in real life situations.

Science

In Science this half-term we will be continuing our learning based on electricity. The children will learn to represent circuits using symbols in a diagram as well as learn about two of the most important scientific inventors in the field of electricity - Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. They will get the opportunity to develop their understanding of what electricity is and how to measure it. And will conduct a range of investigations.



The other unit that we will be covering this term is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children will learn about the classification of living things, including micro-organisms. They will build on their work in

Year 4 by sorting animals into groups based on their similarities and differences. They will extend their learning to find out about the standard system of classification first developed by Carl Linnaeus, choosing an animal and researching its classification. The children will have the opportunity to design their own 'curious creature' and classify it based on its characteristics. They will learn about micro-organisms, and conduct an investigation into the growth of mould on bread. Furthermore, the children will put their learning into practice by creating a field guide to the living things in their local area, showing how and why each one is classified.

Religious Education - RE

In R.E. children will be learning about forgiveness, justice and fairness, generosity and greed and problems that we face today in the modern Christian world. They will be taking part in dramas and thought-provoking discussion. They will also be looking at parables and bible quotes to try to compare these to today's society.

Physical Education - PE

This term, activities will include outdoor team games and health and fitness, these will take place generally on **Mondays** and **Fridays**. To ensure that the children always have their kit for lessons, we suggest that they bring their appropriate kit to school on a Monday and take it home to be washed on a Friday. Can we remind you that children are required to wear a white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts or a track suit. Please ensure that children have an extra pair of socks in their PE bag. Earrings must be taken out or covered, and as in school, long hair must be tied back. Children must have a change of clothes for PE, and not wear the clothes they wear during the day. If the weather is cold, they will also need appropriate footwear which must be different from the shoes that they wear for the remainder of the day. Can we please ask parents/carers to support this vital area of the curriculum by helping children to bring the correct changes of clothes to school for these sessions.

Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

Our Jigsaw themes this year are 'Goals and Dreams and 'Healthy Me'.

Children will be thinking about: personal and academic goals and targets; aspirations and dreams for the future; the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle, and body image and personal health.



Modern Foreign Languages - MFL

This term in MFL, the children will be learning about the days of week including months and dates. They will also be finding out the names of pets as well as being able to describe them and talk about them to a partner. They will then go on to look at families with a particular focus on brothers and sisters. Finally, they will be learning Spanish words and phrases which they can use to play games.



Homework - Year 6

This term, the children in year 6 will be receiving weekly homework in both Grammar and Maths. To support this, we will be providing every child in Year 6 with a clearly labelled English Grammar and Maths Revision Book later this half term. These books will be used both to support class work, and as homework activities so it is vital that they are brought into school regularly. When homework is set from these books, the pages that the children will need to complete will be clearly indicated, along with the date that it needs to be completed by. Homework will be set on a Friday and the books must be handed in by the following Wednesday. If you find that your child is struggling with any of the activities, please do not hesitate to contact us either in person or via the Reading planners or on Class Dojo.



Year 6 will also be set weekly spelling. These will be tested on the following Friday and are linked to the KS2 word lists set by the government. A full copy of the word lists will be sent home again later this half term. Any opportunities to practise and look at these words, alongside consolidating knowledge of maths times tables up to 12 x 12 would be very beneficial to your children. The termly POWer Project for theme will be handed out, but for Year 6 this is optional due to the additional homework set in grammar and maths.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Thomas and Miss McCarthy

Years 6 Teachers