

14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Term in Year 6! This letter is to keep you informed about some of the work the children will be doing in Year 6 and to give you a snapshot of the term ahead.

### **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 the 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 Key Skills**

During this term, the children will write for a range of different reading and writing genres whilst developing their understanding of grammar and punctuation. Initially the children will be focusing on 'visual literacy' by studying a short film entitled 'The Piano.' This will give the children opportunities to reflect on the film emotively and further develop their reasoning and imaginative skills. Linking closely with our autumn theme 'Disasters', the children will then be researching and reading a range of non-fiction texts, linked to natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions. This will give the children a good basis to be able to compose and write their own non-fiction information texts. Later in the term, the children will have the opportunity to study contemporary fiction works; the work of Marcus Sedgwick's Floodland will be explored, unpicked and described. 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.



### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics, the children will cover work including place value of numbers - in particular the children will develop a greater understanding of decimal numbers. They will develop and refine methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will also work on securing their knowledge and understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and be able to convert across all three quantities. 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. Children will also take part in arithmetic focused sessions which give them the opportunity to refine their mental and written methods for solving calculations accurately and quickly with increasing difficulty.



### **Science**

This term in Science, children will cover the following units:

- Light
- Reversible and Irreversible Changes



In the topic 'Light', the children will learn about light, how we see, shadows, reflection and refraction. The children will learn how light travels and how this enables us to see objects. They will demonstrate their knowledge by making and starring in their own television programme. The children will have the opportunity to make a functioning periscope, finding out about mirrors and the angles of reflection and incidence. They will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate refraction, carrying out some fascinating experiments into the effects of bending light. Furthermore, they will have a chance to predict what will happen in an exciting investigation into the visible spectrum. They will work in a hands-on way to explore how light creates the colours we see, designing coded messages. Finally, they will learn about Isaac Newton and his theory of light and colour, performing a shadow puppet play about his discoveries and ideas.

In the topic 'Reversible and Irreversible Changes' the children will build on their knowledge and understanding of the different properties that each material holds. We will then compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility and conductivity. We will also explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning.

### Computing:



Block Coding - In this unit pupils recap on coding from previous years. The pupils will learn to make things happen in a sequence, creating simple animations and simulations. Pupils learn to code with 'if statements', which select different pieces of code to execute depending on what happens to other objects.

### Religious Education - RE



In R.E. children will be learning about the key features of belief and worship in Islam. Children will learn about how Muslims show their commitment to God as well as different practices they undertake.

In the second half term, children will be focusing on Christianity and Christmas. They will be analysing the Christian belief in Jesus' birth and the significance of this to Christians.

### Physical Education - PE



This term, activities will include Handball and Dance which will take place on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**.

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 Thursday. Can we remind you that children are required to wear a white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts, or tracksuit bottoms. 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



The children will be completing our first unit of 'Being me in my world'. This unit encourages children to be reflective and responsive to the world around them. They will think and discuss the year ahead, as well as exploring the school community and how to work well in a team.

### Modern Foreign Languages - MFL

During the Second Half term, the children will continue to learn basic Spanish expressions around various topics as well as continuing to learn more about Spanish culture.



### Homework



English and Maths homework will be given weekly. Homework will be given on a Friday and need to be returned by the next Wednesday. As ever, we encourage children to read and practise their times tables on a daily basis, and expect the children to be reading at least 3-4 times a week and record this in their reading diaries. Spellings will be given out weekly on a Friday. All children understand that the work should be completed to the same standard as they would do in class and therefore we ask that writing be done in pencil or pen. Crayons or coloured pencils may be used for pictures or diagrams as appropriate. 'Power Projects' will be given **termly** and will have activities relating to our creative curriculum theme.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

*Mr Thomas and Miss McCarthy*

The Year 6 team