

Year 6 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back from the Year 6 team. Thank you for all your support in settling your children back into school. We could not have hoped for a better start to the new academic year, especially given the tremendous levels of change that all of our families have been through. This letter is to keep you informed about the work children will be doing in our busy autumn term.

Recovery Curriculum

We will endeavour to support each and every child in returning to school. For most children, their daily goal at school is not purely to learn but also to re-connect with their friends and foster a sense of belonging that only their peer group can offer. We cannot underestimate the impact of the loss of that social interaction; it is as key to their holistic development as any lesson will ever be. For many children, the loss of structure will be devastating and as such, we will ensure that our curriculum gives all children chance to adapt to school, this term and beyond. We will therefore be taking things at a slower pace at the start of the year to ease the children back and to ensure they are fit to learn.

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 Geography and '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 Geography, the children will be learning more about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes and earthquakes occur. In addition, they will become more confident in using atlases and digital maps to locate countries and geographical features. From a historical perspective, we will focus on is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and how it affected the people in Pompeii and Herculaneum, whilst in D&T, the children will be given the opportunity to design and make structures to withstand earthquakes and other disasters. We will also be looking further into plastic pollution and ways in which we can help make positive changes to benefit the Earth.



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 6 team!

English Key Skills

 During this term, the children will write for a range of different genres whilst developing their understanding of grammar and punctuation. Due to the time spent away from school last academic year, this term we will be focusing our attentions closely on the skills of reading. Together, we will be reading a number of exciting fiction texts as a whole class in order to develop our comprehension skills starting with 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. From this, the children will also write letters, descriptions and short stories. 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 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, we will be both revising previously taught methods and key skills from last year, as well as using them as building blocks to move forwards into the Year 6 Curriculum.

The year will start with a focus on place value of numbers - in particular, the children will develop a greater understanding of decimal number - and then 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.

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.

Physical Education - PE

This term, P.E. will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** and will be held outdoors as far as possible. Activities will centre on the events found in the 'Sports hall Athletics' competitions, with children working towards improving their 'personal challenge' goals.



At present, children need only change their footwear for PE. As such, please can we ask that children bring and leave their trainers/pumps in school, rather than wear their trainers with their uniform. Under no circumstances should children come to school in their PE footwear.

When full PE is required again, can we remind you that children are required to wear a **plain** white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts, or tracksuit bottoms and dark trainers. Earrings must be taken out or covered, and as in school, long hair must be tied back. 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 term are 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'.

Children will be thinking about their personal identity and their roles in and outside of school. They will also consider British values and look at how people are all unique.

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



At the moment, our main aim is for children to be **reading** to an adult at least 3 times a week, and changing their books regularly. Reading diaries will be sent home every Thursday, along with a reading book, and we ask that you support us in recording what and when your child has read (to themselves or to adults). Diaries will then be collected in on a Monday morning and used at school until Thursday, when we will send books home once again.

Spellings will also be given out weekly on a Thursday and will be tested the following Thursday.

In maths, taking any opportunities to ensure that your child knows their **times tables** (up to 12 x 12) fluently would support their learning. Times Tables Rockstars will also enable children to practise and become fluent, and login details can be found in the back of your child's reading diary.

'Power Projects' will be given **termly** and will have activities relating to our creative curriculum theme. Details will follow in due course.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss McCarthy and Miss Johnson

The Year 6 team