

## Year 6 Autumn Newsletter

*We have had a lovely start to what is a very exciting and important school year. We look forward to working with the children and parents to ensure that the children continue to fulfil their potential in the coming year.*

Year 6 is a challenging year. An important part of the teaching and learning in Year 6 relies upon the children beginning to take more of a personal responsibility in their own education. They need to understand that they have a level of accountability to 'help themselves' in order to be ready for the demands of secondary school.

The Year 6 SATs assessments, which will be completed in during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, will be based upon the new National Curriculum programs of study. Throughout the year the children will be completing practise test papers which focus on Reading, Spelling and Grammar, Maths and Science.



### English

In year 6 we will recap all the fiction genres covered in Key Stage 2, beginning in the autumn term with a revision of narrative text. We will identify a variety of fiction genre and use them to develop the children's ability to create characters, settings, plot in a range of styles. We will then look at non-fiction writing with a focus on reports relating to other subject areas such as geography and history. After half term we will return to narrative in the form of traditional stories, we will explore letter writing and then look at expressive vocabulary in poetry.

During the week we are fortunate enough to be able to split the children into two groups for their English lessons (taught by Mrs Boylan, Miss Gottlieb and supported by Mrs Quinn.) This will give them important opportunities for additional support and challenge in their learning. Reading activities take place in group sessions in addition to their daily English lessons. Spelling work will be on a weekly basis and may occasionally be set for homework. If you know your child struggles in this area it could be a focus for additional work at home, as being able to spell common words is a much needed life skill.



**Maths** - A wide range of topics will be covered including work on shape, angles, area, perimeter, fractions, decimals, time, place value, handling data and the four number operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Again, as in English, the children will be split into two groups for their maths lessons allowing them more support and extension with their learning. Questions from test papers are often used in teaching and marking as the format can be quite new to the children when they begin Year 6. Mental skills are very important and we will be completing regular practise papers. Of equal importance are written methods as in the test papers the children can gain marks for a clearly written explanation.



**Science** - We start the term with a topic relating to forces. In year 6 we try to carry out lots of practical investigations so the children have first-hand experience of the topic. We will be using tables and graphs to show our results in a range of ways many of which will be hand drawn and others using ICT. We will investigate the various forces acting upon objects e.g. upthrust, air and water resistance and gravity. We will then explore light with activities relating to understanding how light travels, refraction and the colour wheel.



**Computing** - The Autumn term topic will begin with graphical modelling and animation. We will use software on the laptops and apps on the ipads, giving the children a chance to work with both operating systems. Throughout the term year 6 will use the internet to carry out research and each time we will be looking at creating accurate searches and considering the importance of safety on-line.

### Humanities

We begin the Autumn term with a long **history** topic based on World War 2. We will be asking a series of historical enquiry questions and will find out about key events and issues.

In the first half term the focus in **geography** is Extreme Earth. We will be finding out about such natural phenomenon as volcanoes, tsunami, earthquakes and tornadoes. After half term our learning in geography will be based on issues relating to climate change.

In their weekly **RE** lessons the children will be looking at aspects of Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity.



The children will be having their weekly **music** lessons with Mr Mitchell in which they will be working on listening, composing and performing. In **art** they will begin the term by designing and making silk paintings. In the second half of term they will find out about the ceramics of Clarisse Cliff. In **DT** the children will be finding out about and making shelters.



The children will also continue to work on their language skills with Mme Bruce on Wednesday. Year 6 will be continuing with **French**, although they will be encountering some Spanish in their weekly lessons.

We have **PE** on Mondays and Wednesdays (gymnastics and trampolining.) Your child will need suitable clothing for these activities, please ensure the children have their kit in school all the time as these lessons may change. Swimming at Hatfield is on Thursday and the children need a suitable costume (1 piece for girls), a hat and a towel. Please be aware the children are not encouraged to



wear goggles at the pool - the instructors say that swimming is a 'life skill' and that you would not have your goggles if you fell into a river! However, if you still want your child to wear goggles please send in a signed letter.



#### Reminders:

- Please ensure that your child has correct **school uniform** including dark plimsolls and plain socks. Refer to the School Newsletter to remind you about rules regarding school uniform. Many items are available at the office. Please also name all items of clothing and equipment. Nail varnish and tattoos should not be worn at school and reminders will be given to remove them if the case arises. Girls should wear suitable hair bands for school.
- The children are expected to read **at least three times each week**, recording what they have read and having it signed by a parent, guardian or older brother or sister **with a comment** relating to how they enjoyed the book or anything they didn't understand. All reading entries should be in date order and signed by parents or carers. Reading records will be checked on a Friday and if your child hasn't read 3 times in a week then they will be given the opportunity to read during playtime on Friday. Children who read 5 times will be given a sticker for their book marks, when they achieve 5 stickers they will be given a prize!
- Secondary transfer forms - needs to be completed online by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**
- **Yr 6 SATs** take place in the week beginning **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. More information will be shared with you during a meeting to be held later in the year.
- **School journey** to Yorkshire has been provisionally booked for **25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**, more information will follow as soon as we have confirmed our plans.
- **Year 6 homework** - Children will be set homework relating to english and maths each week. They will also receive spellings and will sometimes bring home a book that we are reading together in class to read further. There will also occasionally be homework relating to the topics we are covering in class. Homework will usually be set on a Thursday or Friday and will expected to be handed in the following Monday.
- **Times tables** are very important for the majority of maths work in year 6 e.g. fractions, percentages, area and the children need to know the multiplication and related division facts.
- A useful web site for general year 6 support / revision is **BBC Bite Size** (the KS2 / KS3 sections.)
- Please remember that every day at school is important and that **holidays in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances**. Being late in the morning, places your child in a catch up situation for the first lesson, as we do begin teaching very promptly in Year 6.
- Please don't hesitate to come in and talk with us if you or your child is concerned about anything.

Mrs. Boylan Miss Gottlieb and Mrs Quinn