



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn 2, November 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope you had a lovely half term break. The class have come back full of enthusiasm and keen to work hard - we hope this continues! We are writing to inform you of the Year 6 curriculum for the coming weeks.



The Curriculum

Below is an outline of the Year 6 curriculum for this half term:

English We are really pleased with the progress being made in English so far this year. Regular reading of a range of texts is essential at home now to ensure fluency, improved comprehension and of course enjoyment! Weekly spellings will continue to be tested on Friday - please ensure your child is aware of the meaning of every word!

Our **Power of Reading** novel this half term will continue to be *Skellig* by David Almond. The children are really engaged with this book and they will be developing their writing using a range of genres including recounts, descriptions, newspaper reports and letter writing. After *Skellig* the class will look at *Sensational Poems* by Roger McGough. An imaginative poetry anthology featuring sections on sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. The children will explore the use of figurative language and create their own anthology of poems. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will focus on; phrases, singular and plural nouns and pronouns, direct speech and concrete and abstract nouns.

Maths The children will be covering the following areas: Number and place value; Problem solving, reasoning and algebra; Fractions, ratio and proportion; Measurement; Geometry: properties of shapes; Mental multiplication and division; Written multiplication and division; Decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions. We are sure with continued hard work and the right attitude excellent progress will continue to be made. Keep up the mental arithmetic and rehearsing of the times tables at home please!

Topic
(Science & Geography)
Our topic this half term is '**What a Wonderful World**'.
In Science we will be learning how to classify different types of rock and soil, about the movements of the Earth, Sun and Moon and about different types of cloud and how they are formed.
In Geography we will be studying the different regions and environments around the world together with the possible causes of climate change and its effects on our planet. We will also study about extreme weather conditions and how they affect people and localities. We will be inviting all parents into school early in the Spring Term (Thursday 5th January 2017) to celebrate the end of this topic - more details to follow nearer the time.

- R.E. **Peace** - We will complete our topic with the children looking to the example of Jesus and how His words and actions offer peace. We then move on to **Christmas** and exploring the question 'How would Christians advertise Christmas?'
- Computing **Multimedia Presentation** - Children will learn to create a multimedia presentation using text, images and sounds. They will learn to design PowerPoint Presentations which will help them present their work in other subjects. The children will also learn how to **Program an Online Quiz** that will link with our Topic work on the world's 6 major biomes.
- P.S.H.E. **Celebrating Difference**
- French Madame Cox will continue to deliver specialist teaching of French every Monday. "Ecoutez et repetez!"
- Art & Design This term Mrs Astbury will deliver specialist teaching of art. The class will be developing last terms work on the art of perspective into creating 3D models for theatrical stage sets and backdrops. This terms topic '**What a Wonderful World**' will be expressed through the medium of theatre and imaginative screenplays. We would like the children to work in small groups to learn how to collaborate and are asking for old empty shoe boxes per pair as the structural base and any other recycleable materials for props and puppets. We will look at the stage sets of Andrew Lloyd-Webber (Cats), Julie Taymor (The Lion King) and the many painted backdrops by David Hockney.
- Music Mrs Le Prevost will teach specialist music lessons. This half term we will be developing an appreciation of the contemporary music genre using just body percussion and sounds. Using a piece created by a current UK composer as inspiration, we will be exploring how to use body percussion in canon form then adding vocal sounds and movement in order to create a group piece. This will develop our understanding of the importance of pulse to pull together musical sounds as well as the use of other musical elements to enhance our pieces, which we will video and watch back to so that we can evaluate our work. We will also be rehearsing songs for our Christmas nativity service.
- P.E. Year 6 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday with Mr Ellis and have a second lesson on a Wednesday. This half term's activities will be football and hockey. Pupils will focus on passing into space, moving to receive and shooting on the move. In addition the class will practice dribbling and passing, to maintain possession and beat defenders, in different overloaded situations. Skills will be applied and knowledge of rules developed through competitive games.

PE LESSONS FOR YEAR 6 WILL USUALLY TAKE PLACE TWICE A WEEK - EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT AND TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS ARE IN SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS AND LABELLED CLEARLY.

Homework

We advise our children to spend no more than 40 minutes on each piece of main homework and to let us know whether they found it too complicated or too easy at the end of the assignment. We expect all of our Year 6 children to complete their homework independently but it would be beneficial for them to have it checked over for accurate punctuation, accurate calculations and neatness before it is handed in. Please comment if you have had to help significantly. Homework is structured as followed:

Monday: English (GPS focus) - due in on the following Wednesday

Wednesday: Maths - due in on the following Friday

Friday: Topic - due in on the following Tuesday

In addition to the main homework Year 6 pupils will also be expected to conduct these:

- 1) Spellings - need to be learnt weekly, set every Monday for a test on Friday.
- 2) Times Tables - need to be rehearsed regularly for a test on Friday.
- 3) Mental Arithmetic - need to practise regularly for a test on Friday.
- 4) Guided Reading - tasks will be set on a designated day for completion **at home** and handed in for the following week's session with the teacher.

Diary Dates

9th November - The Crystal Trip

22nd - 24th November - Sayers Croft Residential

1st December - Theatre Company Panto in school- Aladdin

7th/8th December - Parent Meetings 4-7pm

14th December - Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church 9.45 am

16th December - Christmas Jumper Day! Last Day of Term - school finishes 2.30pm

5th January 2017 at 2.45pm - Presentation of work for 'What a Wonderful World' topic

If you have any queries concerning your child or the curriculum, please contact us via the PACT book to arrange an appointment.

Kindest regards

Best wishes,

Mr Lett, Mrs Bishop and Ms O'Connell