



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 1, January 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. Thank you again for all your good wishes at the end of last term.

The class have quickly settled and we really hope the children will be able to take on more responsibility as the term commences. All of our Y6 children will need to continue their goal of stepping up and working hard to ensure they go beyond the expected standard required.



The Curriculum

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

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| English | Our Power of Reading text continues to be <i>Sensational Poems</i> by Roger McGough. The children will explore the use of figurative language and create their own anthology of poems. On completion of this work the class will move on to our next text called <i>Goodnight Mister Tom</i> by Michelle Magorian. This well loved novel about a boy evacuated during the outbreak of war and in need of someone to care for him will captivate the children. It will deal with some sensitive issues for the class to consider and will link nicely with our topic work on World War II. Grammar and punctuation will focus on revision for the up and coming assessments (SATs). Spelling tests will continue to be held on Friday - the words selected are all from previous SATs tests so please ensure meanings of words are learnt as well as the spellings! |
| Maths | The children will be covering the following areas: Number and place value; Written addition and subtraction; Decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; Fractions, ratio and proportion; Problem solving, reasoning and algebra; Mental multiplication and division; Geometry: properties of shapes; Mental addition and subtraction; Written multiplication and division.

At home it would be really useful if the children are encouraged to complete the various curriculum activities on <i>Mathletics</i> - these act as good consolidation and revision tasks. |
| Topic
(Science &
Geography) | First the class will need to continue and then conclude their topic ' What a Wonderful World ' which focuses on geography and science (see previous newsletter for details). We will be inviting all parents into school on Thursday 19 th January 2017 to celebrate the end of this topic. |
| Topic
(History) | Next the class will begin their new topic on World War II . The children will delve into history and learn about the outbreak of war, the effects of the Blitz, food rationing and the evacuation of children from major cities. We will then look at some events following the war and the formation of NATO. In previous years we have invited a guest speaker in to the |

classroom to share their childhood memories of wartime Britain, so if you have a friend or relative who might like to join us then please contact Mr Lett or Mrs Bishop. The topic will conclude with our very own class VE Day party! Further details about this party will be sent home nearer the time.

- Computing **Websites - Working with text, tables, graphs, images and sound.** The children will be working to make their own websites. They will prepare the text; images and sounds they would like to include and produce a detailed booklet with their website proposal.
- R.E. We will be studying a new topic -**What is Buddhism?** The children will be finding out who Siddhartha was and the circumstances that led to him becoming Buddha and achieving enlightenment. They will also be introduced to Buddhist virtues and beliefs using stories that Buddha told.
- P.S.H.E. **Dreams and Goals** - this unit focuses on exploring ways in which we work with each other to make the world a better place and identifying why we are motivated to do this.
- French Madame Cox will continue to deliver specialist teaching of French every Monday. "Ecoutez et repetez!"
- Art & Design This term Year 6 will be focusing on printing techniques and creating pieces of artwork inspired by the topic studied in class.
- Music Mrs Le Prevost will teach specialist music lessons. This half term, first we will be completing our contemporary music project from last half term - creating group pieces using body percussion and sounds. Then, with WWII as our theme, the children will work in groups to create their own wartime song. Starting off with writing their lyrics using a recognised song structure, having looked into how existing songs used the events and feelings of the time to inspire them, the groups will then put their words to music. This project will go through to the second half of the term towards the end of which they will perform their piece to the rest of the class. The performances will be recorded so that they can listen back and evaluate their work.
- 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 activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will extend their range of balances, begin to take weight on their hands and use rolls learnt to link balances. In addition the class will practice jumping in different shapes and create group sequences, by linking the different elements learnt, performed in unison and cannon.

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 (Comprehension 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

Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 9.15am - Holy Communion Service

Thursday 19th January 2017 at 2.45pm - 'What a Wonderful World' topic presentation

Friday 3rd February 2017 - DT Day

Tuesday 7th February 2017 - Safer Internet Day

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

Kindest regards,

Mr Lett, Mrs Bishop and Ms O'Connell