




Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a rest of some kind during half-term, and that the children are ready for another fun-filled busy six weeks of learning! I know they are particularly enthusiastic about our topics this half-term so I am very much looking forward to starting that this week. For more information about these and other subjects taught this half-term, please see our curriculum overview below:

Our Spring 2 Curriculum

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| English Writing | Linking with our history topic, we are going to be exploring the emotions of those involved in World War II through letter writing, diary writing and descriptive pieces. Firstly, we shall be using Shirley Hughes's beautifully illustrated 'The Lion and The Unicorn' which follows the journey of evacuee Lenny from London to the safety of the countryside. Based on this text, we will be writing diary entries of the different characters and letters between them, thinking carefully about the language and tone used to represent the writer, and a grammar focus on using a range of devices for cohesion, and various ways to use sentence length for effect. |
| English Reading | This half-term, some of our reading sessions will take place in year groups: Year 6 are going to be practicing the full range of VIPERS skills by reading a range of short texts related to World War II and answering different styles of questions, whilst Year 5 will be diving into Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief further before exploring the story of 'Carrie's War' by Nina Bawden. Together, we shall be reading an information text about Anne Frank, and direct extracts from her diary. |
| Mathematics | <p>This half-term, we are continuing our learning with fractions, decimals and percentages with a particular focus on percentages including calculating percentages of amounts in a variety of ways before moving on to algebra and ratio.</p> <p>To ensure key skills are kept fresh, children will frequently be challenged with arithmetic questions relating to the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division including questions using decimals. As always, should you like clarification on any of the mathematical terminology or methods we use at school, which would enable you to better support your child with their learning at home, please let me know.</p> |
| Science | Our science topic is designed to improve our data skills as scientists, where we will be thinking carefully about how to record data effectively during an experiment, and then deciding on the most suitable way to present it in a graph including: scatter graphs, bar, line graphs and pie charts. In this topic, we will have ample opportunity to revisit prior topics including: light, magnets, forces, electricity, sound and states of matter. |
| History | In History, we are going to be developing our skills as historians by explaining reasons for change within a time period; identify how likely a historical source is to be biased; and explore the contributions of significant figures whose decisions changed the course of history. The historical period we are studying is World War II, a very rich topic of which we will be immersing ourselves in to explore and understand as much as possible, including a trip to Bletchley Park on 17 th March, along with learning about evacuation, rationing, The Holocaust (a simple introduction at a primary appropriate level), the changing role of women in the war, and VE Day. |

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| Art | <div data-bbox="347 152 603 544">  </div> <div data-bbox="627 152 1007 544"> <p>We are exploring the art of 'mixed-media' this half-term, thinking about combining materials and techniques we have used before such as paint, pastels and chalk to create our own works of art set around the theme of World War II, with the pupils deciding individually what their specific theme will be having explored various WWII related art including propaganda posters.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1031 152 1450 421">  </div> |
| RE | <p>Our key question in RE this term is all about pilgrimage, and exploring why a special journey is so important to some religious communities. We shall start by reflecting on significant journeys we have made and how the travelling had an impact on us – was the journey perhaps more exciting or memorable than the destination? Then, we shall be learning about significant pilgrimage sites for Christians and the reasons a believer and indeed interested tourist may wish to visit including: Walsingham Abbey, the Scottish isle of Iona, and Lourdes, as well as the Holy Lands.</p> |
| PSHE | <p>In PSHE, we are looking at the topic of 'Respecting Ourselves and Others' in which we will be thinking about why it is important to listen and respond respectfully to a wide range of people, including those whose traditions, beliefs and lifestyle are different to their own; what discrimination means and different types of discrimination; and ways to safely challenge discrimination.</p> |
| Computing | <div data-bbox="347 976 627 1451"> <p>Get out those best quiz-team names: Year 5&6 are getting quizzical by creating online quizzes in all shapes and forms for a range of audiences, including ways to analyse the results effectively.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="659 976 1450 1451">  </div> |
| French | <p>We are continuing with our current French unit this half-term: 'Au salon de thé.' In this unit the children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remember and recall a wide variety of foods, snacks, and drinks (with their indefinite article/determiner) typically served in a salon de thé. - Recap and review how to change a singular noun to plural form. - Have opportunities to perform a short role-play ordering what they would like to eat and drink. |

Homework Routines and Expectations

All homework routines and expectations remain the same this half-term, with homework set each Thursday, and due in the following Thursday, and Spelling Shed running from Friday to Thursday. We frequently remind the children to inform us if they have had any difficulties completing any part of the homework one week, and that learning to communicate politely and effectively with adults is an important skill in itself which needs to be practised as much as times tables or spellings.

Please continue to encourage your child to read, and complete their reading record every time they read at home, aiming for 3 or more times a week.

Homework expectations continue as last term, with each week the children being set:

- Google Classroom maths task
- Google Classroom English task
- Ed-Shed spelling assignment of 3+ games
- Reading 3+ times a week

Additionally, there are spellings to be learnt in your child's spelling passport, which is in the back of their reading record.

Bletchley Park Trip

To support our learning in history, we are visiting Bletchley Park on Friday 17th March. Children have been asked to bring a small backpack to carry their lunch and coat on this trip, and need to be wearing school uniform. We shall be leaving after our usual registration time, and plan to be back for the end of the school day.

Queries and Questions

As always, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to meet with me, either by asking me directly or via the school office, should you ever have any questions or would like to discuss how your child is getting on.

Mrs Hood

Year 5 and 6 Class Teacher