

# Twyford Church of England School

## Autumn Term 2 Newsletter – Upper Key Stage 2



Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome back after what I am sure was a much-needed break for many of us. I hope you have all taken time to relax and recharge, ready for the return to school. We have another busy half-term ahead of us, full of important learning and the exciting build-up to Christmas.

### Our Autumn Term 2 Curriculum

Over the next seven weeks, we have a variety of important and interesting topics to look forward to, outlined below. If you have any questions and would like me to explain how best to support your child with these subjects, or if you have a particular passion or expertise that you could share with the class, please get in touch.

<b>English – Writing</b>	<p>This half-term in English, we will continue to improve our consistency with the fundamentals of sentence construction and introduce new and more challenging grammar and punctuation skills that the children will be incorporating into their writing.</p> <p>We will be covering three varied text types over the course of this half-term, with another fantastic set of books to inspire us in our writing: <i>Lift</i> by Minh Le, <i>Curiosity</i> by Markus Motum and <i>Shackleton's Journey</i> by William Grill. In response to these texts, we will be writing exciting narratives involving travelling through portals, explanatory writing on the subject of the Mars Perseverance Rover and newspaper reports about Sir Ernest Shackleton's journey to the Antarctic on the Endurance.</p>
<b>English – Reading</b>	<p>Our reading sessions this half-term will focus on supporting the children to develop their VIPERS reading comprehension skills (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Recall and Summarise) whilst studying one text in depth per fortnight.</p> <p>Our three texts for this half-term include two fiction and one non-fiction texts: <i>Future Friend</i> by David Baddiel, <i>Roar Like A Lion</i> by Carlie Sorosiak and <i>The Last Bear</i> by Hannah Gold.</p>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p>After consolidating a few key skills from last half-term (long division, square and cube numbers, prime numbers and BIDMAS), we will be looking at a large and important mathematics unit this half-term: Fractions.</p> <p>In this unit, the children will be covering a range of topics, including: equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, comparing and ordering fractions, adding and subtracting fractions (including mixed numbers), multiplying and dividing using fractions and solving problems that involve fractions.</p> <p>If you would 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>
<b>Science</b>	<p>Our science topic this half-term is Light. In this topic, we will explore what light really is, how we are able to see, how shadows are formed and how light can be reflected and refracted. The children will learn about the visible spectrum of light and investigate how light can be bent and reflected for various effects and purposes.</p> <p>Our science week this half-term, in which our afternoons will focus fully on science, will be the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	<p>Our geography topic for this half-term focuses on Energy. We will learn and discuss the energy needs of everyone, from individuals to the planet as a whole. We will research where our energy comes from, looking at both renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, and discuss how we can live our lives whilst conserving natural resources and looking after our planet, considering the impact our energy use has on the world.</p>
<b>Design and Technology</b>	<p>This half-term, the children will be using their creativity and technical skills to design and make felt phone cases. They will conduct research into the features they will need to include in their phone case, create a clear plan of action as they prepare their design and finally work precisely to bring their idea to life.</p>

<b>RE</b>	Our RE topic this half-term will focus on the religion of Christianity. As we will be approaching the Christmas holiday this half-term, the children will be exploring the Christmas story in their RE lessons. The children will then consider the question “Is ‘ <i>God made man</i> ’ a good way to understand the Christmas story?”
<b>PSHE</b>	In our PSHE sessions this half-term, we will be working on the topic of “Living in the Wider World”, in which we will consider the wide range of people, with different backgrounds and beliefs, live in Britain today. We will learn and discuss how we can come together in communities and make our voices heard to make a difference in our lives.
<b>French</b>	In our French sessions, we will be continuing to practise our numbers up to one hundred and our confidence in conversation. In addition, we will also be covering a number of exciting topics, including learning the letters of the alphabet and how to talk about Christmas.

### **Reading and Homework Expectations**

The importance and benefits of regular reading cannot be overstated. Whilst children in Year 5 and 6 will become more independent in their reading, which should be encouraged at home, you should continue to read with your child as regularly as you can, even if for only 10 minutes each evening when they are reading independently. Listen to them read, ask them questions about what they have read and read to them. Please also support your child in completing their Reading Record every time they read at home, which should be brought into school in your child’s book bag.

The children will have two books at school, which they will be encouraged to continue reading at home: a book for learning and a book for pleasure. We will be handing out books designed to help your child develop certain reading skills, and which include questions and prompts to lead to deeper understanding. These books will be changed weekly every Tuesday if needed; please ensure these books are back in your child’s book bag after each weekend. We would also like the children to have a second book they can choose freely and read for pleasure; they are welcome to borrow books from school or bring in books from home as they prefer.

Homework will continue to be set weekly online using Google Classroom. Homework will be set every Monday and should be completed by Sunday before new homework is set the following Monday. Children are free to choose whether to complete their homework during the week or at the weekend; however, if the children would like to ask for my help with their homework, they will need to do so before Friday.

As our mathematics unit this half-term is Fractions, the benefits of knowing your multiplication times tables with speed and confidence will become very apparent. Children who do not know all their times tables, up to 12 x 12, will be at a disadvantage when learning new skills in their maths lessons. Please support your child in learning their times tables at home. Short but frequent practice is ideal. For example, five minutes practice for six days per week would likely be preferable to a 30-minute practice session once per week. I have left links to online times tables practice in the Classwork area of Google Classroom.

I will always do my best to be available should you have any questions or would like to discuss how your child is doing. Please do not hesitate to arrange a time to meet with me, either by asking me directly or via the school office.



Mr Michael BurrIDGE

Year 5 and 6 Class Teacher  
Assistant Headteacher