



TWYFORD
C of E SCHOOL

Year 5 and 6 Class Newsletter

Spring Term 2 2023 - 2024

Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome back – I hope you all enjoyed the half-term break. We have lots of exciting topics ahead of us and a range of learning activities over the next few weeks:

Our Spring 2 Curriculum

English – Writing	'Skellig' is our new class text and shall be used to inspire our writing. This captivating fantasy story is about a boy called Michael who finds a strange part-owl part-angel creature – can Michael solve the mystery of what or who this being is and how it came to live in his shed? Using this wonderful model, we shall explore the skill of integrating dialogue effectively, both to develop character and progress the storyline. From this, we shall be looking to write our own short fantasy and mystery stories applying this key skill.
English – Reading	Our specific VIPERS skills this half-term are <i>explanation</i> and <i>inference</i> , supporting our answers using well-chosen evidence from the texts. Literature we will be using to develop these skills include: 'Oliver Twist' (an abridged version), 'Cloud Bursting', and – linking to our history topic – short information texts about the Victorian era. During these lessons, children will have a chance to read aloud, read independently, and learn how to effectively answer comprehension questions accurately and succinctly.
Maths	It's a busy half-term for maths this time, with quite a few different topics to get our teeth into including: area, perimeter and volume; statistics; geometry including 3D shape; ratio, and algebra. Within all these topics, children will be required to apply previous learning of the formal written methods, and further develop their fluency and confidence with these key skills.
Science	Our science topic this term is 'Humans' in which we will begin by exploring the life-cycle of humans and identifying changes which take place as humans grow. Following on from this, we shall move on to learn about the circulatory system, the function of different blood cells, how nutrients and water are transported in the body, as well as the impact of lifestyle choices on our bodies. We shall be learning new scientific vocabulary to help us explain these concepts, and have lots of fun bringing these processes to life through practical demonstrations and creating models.
History	Our second history topic this year is 'Children in Victorian Times' in which we will be learning some information about the Victorians in general, but predominantly focussing on the life of a child during this era and comparing it to 21 st Century childhood exploring four key areas: at home, at work, at school, and at play. To enhance our key history skills within this topic, we will be learning about the differences between secondary and primary sources, understanding how primary sources are subject to bias, and exploring photographs of primary sources to develop our own questions and initial conclusions about events.
Computing	Last term in computing we learnt all about the basics of spreadsheets using 2Calculate, a PurpleMash tool. This term we are transferring those skills onto Google Sheets which is

	the online equivalent to Microsoft Excel. We will learn how to use basic formulae including SUM, we will find percentages and averages, and create a variety of charts and graphs.
DT	We are continuing with our mechanical toys project this half-term, as we move from the designing phase to actually creating the toys themselves. This will include learning how to use hacksaws and different joining techniques, before (hopefully) enjoying playing with the final product and reviewing them against the success criteria we have come up with.
RE	<p>This term we are continuing our investigation of 'Why don't all members of a religious or non-religious community believe and live in the same way?'. The children have really enjoyed this subject and have tackled it in a very mature and investigative way, I'm really looking forward to how they reflect in the lessons ahead.</p> <p>We will start by reflecting on the differences in Protestant and Catholic beliefs and we will then find out about differences in views of Sunni and Shia Muslims. We will then move onto looking at how festivals are celebrated in different ways, starting off with Holi, a Hindu celebration, and Easter festivities around the world. Finally, we will reflect on how differing worldviews impact and enhance the lives of people in a community.</p>
PSHE	<p>In PSHE, we will be continuing to explore 'Families and Friendships' in which we will be covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about the qualities of healthy relationships that help individuals flourish • ways in which couples show their love and commitment to one another, including those who are not married or who live apart • what marriage and civil partnership mean e.g. a legal declaration of commitment made by two adults <p>The lessons will be predominantly discussion based, using a range of prompts including videos and texts to support our understanding and thinking, as well as short writing tasks to help us express our individual opinions. As always, our lessons will have a clear link to our school value of respect when sharing our own and listening to other's points of view.</p>

Homework:

Homework will continue to be set via Google Classroom every Friday, with a due-date of the following Thursday, and homework club continues to run every Tuesday lunchtime from 12.00-12.30. As always, the homework tasks are relevant to current learning and should not feel onerous for the pupils.

Reading:

Those Silver awards have started trickling in for Year 5 and 6, and we know there are even a few Gold waiting in the wings, so very well done to everyone who has achieved an award so far! Please continue to read with your child as regularly as you can and ask them questions about what they have read. Reading Records should be filled in every time they read at home, and can record any book or reading material, not just texts from school.

Just as last term, children are asked to ensure they have their reading record with them on Thursday, and this is when reading books will be changed as required.

Spelling:

Over this half-term in spelling we shall be looking at converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes: -ate, -ise, -ify e.g. 'active' becomes 'activate' and 'simple' becomes 'simplify.'

To support fluency with these spelling rules, children are required to log on to Spelling Shed at home to complete an 'assignment' for that week as part of their homework.

Additionally, please continue to use the Spelling Passports to support your child's learning of key curriculum words – as this is still a new initiative, any questions or feedback is warmly welcomed.

Times Table Rockstars:

Along with the excitement of Spelling Shed, we also want to continue to promote Times Table Rockstars – this is a brilliant way to practice rapid recall of timetable facts, and certainly supports many areas of mathematics.

PE Days:

Our PE Days this term are still Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the activities and weather on that day. Children should not wear leggings, unless shorts are also worn over the top.

Victorian School Day:

To enhance our history learning this half-term, we are going to have a 'Victorian School Day' in school on Friday 1st March in which we will run our lessons in as similar fashion as possible to those of a Victorian School room. The children are not required to provide anything additional to a usual school day for this activity. However, they may wish to enter into the spirit of the day by having a more Victorian like school uniform such as a dark waistcoat, neckerchief, long socks and flat cap for boys, and a pinafore, dark or grey cardigan, shawl, mop cap and hair in plaits, bunches or pinned up for girls. Additionally, you may wish to adjust your child's packed-lunch to reflect the era too – this could include: cheese or jam sandwiches, sliced cooked ham, boiled eggs, gingerbread biscuits, apples and pears, all wrapped in greaseproof paper and tied up in a plain tea towel in a wicker basket. However, this is entirely optional, and all children will be able to participate in the day's activities whether in costume or usual Twyford uniform – hopefully they will come home with one or two stories to tell!

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