



## Year 5 and 6 Class Newsletter

### Summer Term 1 2023 - 2024

Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome to summer term! Entering the final term of the year always feels significant, and we take this opportunity in Year 5 and 6 to really sharpen up key skills in preparation for moving up to their next year groups. With this in mind, the children will find some lessons are more focused on recall and application of previously learnt skills, ensuring that prior learning is fully understood. Depending on the topic, we may choose Year 5 and 6 to have lessons separately to be able to meet the needs for their specific year group curriculum. Of course, with hard work, comes reward and we will be adopting a 'work-hard, play-hard' ethos with extra opportunities for playing team games together, mindfulness and music activities, and hopefully one or two trips out to the Rec should the weather allow! Within this, lessons are still timetabled as in previous terms, as we continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum.

#### Our Summer 1 Curriculum

<b>English – Writing</b>	This half-term, children will be given several opportunities to apply their skills in a range of focussed tasks including writing balanced arguments, a set of creative instructions, and retelling of short stories. With all these pieces of writing, we will be going through the process of planning, writing, and editing with the children, with a greater focus on peer editing to support each other, and an emphasis on including skills which show our writing to be of an Upper Key Stage 2 standard such as effective use of: relative clauses, passive voice, parenthesis, varied sentence structures using a range of fronted adverbials, and well-chosen layout devices such as subheadings.
<b>English – Reading</b>	Our skill focus with reading this half-term is to be able to interchange from different types of questions confidently, and therefore, be able to answer a range of different questions relating to a text. This will include shorter vocabulary and retrieval questions, followed by longer explanation and inference questions. Our texts include extracts from longer books, non-fiction articles, and short stories relating to a range of relevant topics.
<b>English - Spelling</b>	Over this half-term in spelling we shall be exploring the following spelling rules and patterns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Words ending in -able/-ably and -ible/-ibly</li> <li>• Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ (-cial and -tial)</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, please continue to use the Spelling Passports to support your child's learning of key curriculum and common exception words – as this is still a new initiative, any questions or feedback is warmly welcomed.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	Key skills we are brushing up on this half-term are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiplication with decimals e.g. 6 x 1.23</li> <li>• Time – being able to convert between digital and analogue confidently, and read and calculate with timetables</li> <li>• Long division (mainly at Year 6's request!)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowing and applying conversions of measurement, e.g. knowing there are 1000g in 1kg so 5.6kg = 5600g</li> </ul> <p>There shall also be an extra push with developing our confidence at recalling a range of arithmetic skills – something the children enjoyed at the end of last term – which includes applying knowledge of the formal methods for the four operations, being able to calculate with fractions, using squared and cubed numbers, and knowledge of the order of operations for Year 6s.</p>
<b>Science</b>	Our science topic this term is ‘Evolution and Inheritance’ in which we shall extend our learning from Year 3 and 4 exploring how living things have changed over time, and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. We will learn that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents, and how these slight changes may help animals and plants to be adapted to suit their environment in different ways. Of course, this means we will be learning about Charles Darwin and his research which led to the theory of evolution, as well as looking at other scientists such as Dr Jane Goodall.
<b>Geography</b>	Our final Geography topic this year is Biomes in which we shall be using atlases, maps and aerial photographs to identify biomes of the world and explain different climates and living things found there, and applying our previously learnt skills to use six figure grid references to show where biomes are located. Having identified key features of different biomes, we will then be comparing and analysing them exploring similarities and differences in temperature, rainfall and humidity.
<b>Computing</b>	This term we will be learning all about blogging. We’re going to look at what a blog is, what makes a successful blog and then create one as a group. We will be discussing the differences between blogging and vlogging, which the children are probably more experienced with. We will also be looking at the importance of commenting appropriately on blogs and vlogs and how to keep ourselves safe online.
<b>Design and Technology</b>	‘Global Food’ is our topic in DT, in which we will be learning to accurately follow a recipe including creating a cost list for ingredients within a set budget, and designing a survey to conduct market research relating to our finished product.
<b>RE</b>	This term in RE we will be exploring the question: ‘How did the religions and worldviews begin?’ This has been a really interesting unit to plan for the children and I hope they get as much out of it as I anticipate. We will start by thinking about inspirational people and what qualities are needed in a leader. Then we will look into what a prophet is, and if all of the major religions have prophets or leaders? Then we will dive deeper into learning more about the prophets Abraham, Moses, Noah, Adam and Jesus.
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>In PSHE, we will be focussing on mental health and well-being including the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What affects mental health</li> <li>Ways to encourage positive mental health</li> <li>Managing change including exploring loss and bereavement</li> <li>How we use our time online and how this may impact our wellbeing</li> </ul> <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:**

Well done to everyone who has achieved an award so far – some have got bronze, some silver, and even a few golds already! 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.

**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 times table 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.

**SATs**

SATs week for Year 6s in England is the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Lessons will continue as normal for Year 5s during this week, as will afternoon sessions for the whole class including our usual PE lessons.

Further information for parents regarding these tests is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

**Residential Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> April**

At 6.30pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April we will be welcoming parents in for a meeting about all things residential. During this meeting, we will aim to answer all your questions including what to bring, what types of activities children will get up to, the food choices available etc.

*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