



Year 5 and 6 Class Newsletter Summer Term 2 2024 – 2025

Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome to our last half-term together this year – I know we are all really looking forward to the many exciting events and topics planned in these next weeks, not to mention starting proper rehearsals of our play this year: The Pirates of the Curry Bean! With planned transition days in Secondary School for Year 6, transition morning for Year 5, swimming lessons continuing, play rehearsals and Sports Day, it is a busy time for us all, and to ensure a balanced timetable of learning continues, some of our topics will be covered in cross-curricular projects as explained below:

Our Summer 2 Curriculum

English – Writing	<p>Whilst being busy developing our speaking and listening skills through play rehearsals, we are also going to be show-casing our writing skills through a range of short writing topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal persuasive letters• Short adventure story writing• A balanced argument• Personal diary reflections on the academic year <p>By exploring a variety of genres, this will allow the children to revisit and recap the broad range of skills covered this year and continue to help them develop their voice as a writer.</p>
English – Reading	<p>Reading this half-term is based on our script – The Pirates of the Curry Bean! As well as being a boat-load of fun to perform, there are also many great narrative features and characters to be explored. The VIPERS skills we will be predominantly focussing on are inference and explanation where we will continue to use the P.E.E structure of</p> <p>P – making a point to answer the question E – giving evidence from the text, usually in the form of a direct quote E – explanation in which we clarify succinctly how our evidence proves our original point</p>
Mathematics	<p>In maths this half-term we are exploring the topic of ‘money’ in which we shall be using addition to efficiently add commonly used prices, knowledge of subtraction to calculate the change due when paying whole pounds or notes, and identifying the most efficient and reliable strategy to find the change when purchasing several items. Following on from this, we will be looking at converting: aiming to be able to use, read, write and convert between standard units (e.g. cm, m, l, ml), converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa, using decimal notation to up to 3 decimal places e.g. 1.546kg = 1546g.</p>

Science	<p>'Living things and their habitats' continues to be our science focus, in which we shall be learning how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird • describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. • describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals • give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
History	<p>In history, we are conducting a Local History study, exploring Twyford in four different periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval to Tudor 1066-1599 • Jacobean to Victorian 1600 to 1899 • The World Wars 1900-1949 • Post War 1950 to 2020 <p>During our research and exploration, we will be thinking about the questions: How is national history reflected in our locality? What makes a historical event noteworthy of recording? How reliable are the sources of information, whether secondary or primary?</p>
Computing	<p>Using Purple Mash, we will be further developing our coding skills exploring how to simulate a physical system, and learning what decomposition (a method of breaking down a task into manageable components) and abstraction (a way of de-cluttering and removing unnecessary details to get a program functioning) are in Computer Science.</p>
Art	<p>We are focusing on our drawing skills this half-term learning to use a variety of techniques to add effects including creating shadows, reflection, hatching and cross-hatching. We will be primarily using pencil to compose pictures depicting movement and perspective using videos and images from a range of sports and dance as inspiration.</p>
RE	<p>Our key question this term is: How does what we believe influence the way we should treat the world?</p> <p>In this unit, we will be both reflecting on what we believe, as well as exploring what others might believe in relation to religious and other belief systems they hold.</p> <p>Questions we will be exploring include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I think caused the universe? • Where did my ideas come from? Does it matter to me if they are true or others agree/disagree? • What do others think about how the universe came into being? What are the similarities/differences between our opinions? • Does the universe have a purpose, or is it just 'there'? What is the importance of the universe? • What do different religions, non-religious groups and scientific views say about how the universe and life came about? • Should human beings be concerned about the future of the environment and world? Do people have a responsibility to care for the world? Why and what is this?
PSHE	<p>In PSHE we are continuing to think about our health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on ways to build healthy sleeping habits, staying safe in hot weather, and establishing suitable hygiene routines to prevent the spread of bacteria, before moving on to following our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) unit.</p>

French	<p>'Quel temps fait-il ?' – What is the weather like? Is our final French topic this year, in which pupils will learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ask what the weather is like and respond in French • recognise and recall the conjunctions 'et' (and) & 'mais' (but) • recognise and recall the 4 core compass points in French • recognise and recall numbers 1-31 in French to say the temperature • recognise and recall the 7 days of the week and the time of day in French
---------------	--

Reading and Homework Expectations

Our first round of Platinum Reading Awards are going out this week! Well done to all those who have achieved an incredible 250 times of reading at home over the course of the academic year. Please continue to encourage reading at home as regularly as possible including recording this in the reading record. Please note, each day your child reads at home needs to be recorded individually to be counted towards their next certificate e.g. if they read both days at the weekend, please record this as two separate days.

Homework will continue to be set weekly on a Thursday and is due in the following Thursday. This half-term, homework will consist of:

- Maths – practicing Times Table Rockstars
- English – grammar task set on EdShed
- Spellings – spelling games on EdShed

After a year of lots of different homework challenges, we are taking a slightly lighter approach for our final half-term by setting game-based tasks for the three subjects. This is to hopefully allow the children to have that little bit of extra time spare to rehearse their lines and song lyrics for our play. All passwords have been shared again with the children, but if there are any issues logging in, please encourage them to ask me and we will do our best to help.

The Play – The Pirates of The Curry Bean!

We are already 'stowing away' items in readiness for our ship-shape cast and set – if you have anything at home that you think could be useful in supporting us create a pirate ship, a sailing ship, or tropical island scene or even turn children into mice, rats, pirates and sailors please do let us know. We shall be creating props and organising costumes in due course, and there will be more information about ticketing for the performances on 15th and 16th of July in the coming weeks.

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