

Spring Year 6 Class Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and the new term. I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about a few things and to tell you about what has been planned for your child for this term.

Year 6's Topics and Themes

This term's history topic will be *Beyond Face Value*. This will focus on interpretations of history and will develop the children's historical skills with a particular focus on how sources can sometimes be deceiving. Through this topic, children will explore a range of time periods.

In addition to this, our main book, which we will use for many of our writing lessons, will be *the Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. In this intriguing story, Hugo, a boy who lives inside a Paris train station, crosses paths with a mysterious girl and her curmudgeonly uncle and attempts to discover the secrets from his past.

In maths, we will develop our understanding of ratio, algebra, decimals, fractions, percentages, area, perimeter, volume and statistics. Please check our webpage for some useful links to support your children in maths.

Our first science topic this term will be concerned with the continuation of *Animals Including Humans*, which will include how the human body works, and how it is affected by different lifestyle factors, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, eating a balanced diet and taking part in regular exercise. We will then be studying the topic of *Evolution and Inheritance*, which teaches children the origins of life on Earth and how species develop over time through natural selection. Part of this topic will involve the study of the work of Charles Darwin.

Throughout the term, we will be concentrating on continuing to improve our standards of presentation, spelling and the use of language. The children will also be encouraged to read a wide range of texts to continue improving their fluency, understanding and deduction skills. We would be grateful if you would continue reading with your child for enjoyment and to ensure they are reading with understanding and fluency.

In maths, times tables are vitally important if the children are going to make good progress. TT Rockstars is a great resource to practise this aspect of maths. Mathletics can also be used to support all areas of maths and give your children additional opportunities to develop their skills. Please encourage your children to make use of both of these.

Practical information

As usual, we prepare for early morning activities for the class from 8:50am and would encourage your child to access these by coming in as soon as they can from this time. Registers are taken at 9:00am.

We feel that it is important for children to drink water throughout the day. Therefore, children may bring in bottles of water each day as long as the bottle has a secure lid. These should be taken home every night for washing and refilling.

Please try to make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name. Any lost property can then be easily identified.

SATs

As you will be aware, your children will be sitting the end-of-key-stage-two assessments in May (Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May 2024). I will be holding a short meeting for parents on Friday 19th January at 3:20pm. Please make every effort to attend this.

PE

PE lessons may switch days depending on weather or other events happening in school. Therefore, please ensure that your child has their kit in school throughout the week, taking it home at weekends to be washed. Please bring tracksuits, jumpers and light winter jackets during these colder months. Children should not wear any jewellery during these lessons and all earrings must either be taken out or covered with micro-pore tape.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly (please check Seesaw for task details and due dates). This term, we will be having a particular focus, across the curriculum, on spelling, punctuation and grammar. To support this, homework will be set on [spag.com](https://www.spag.com). Login details will be sent home with your child in the first week of January.

I hope your children are looking forward to an exciting new term at Excalibur. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Thanks for your cooperation and continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Hancock