

Year 6

Welcome letter

Autumn 2019



Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of a new school year. This term, we have many exciting topics and events ahead of us - Kingswood, Healthy Body Week, new topics and maths activities to mention just a few. Below we have included key information regarding topics, events, dates and routines that will be taking place this term. We hope that by keeping you informed, your child can make a smooth transition into his or her new class.

Teaching Staff

Year 5 - Mrs Day

Year 5/6 - Mr Stewart

Year 6 - Mrs Chadwick (**Key Stage 2 coordinator**)
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
Mrs Jones (**SEND coordinator**)
(Thursday & Friday)

We are also delighted that Mrs Gallagher will still be in school and will be covering PPA in UKS2 on Monday & Tuesday.

Our Teaching Assistants are Mrs Bailey & Mrs Warrington (Tuesday).

Curriculum this half term

English - We will be studying and producing explanatory texts linked to our topic on 'Our Body'. We will also be reading and discussing the story "Beowulf" by Michael Morpurgo, which links to our Anglo-Saxon & Viking topic. This text will help us develop our narrative writing and lead us to examine poetry. As a class, we will also share and examine the text 'A Viking Boy'.

Maths - We are very excited about the introduction of a new maths mastery programme called 'Power Maths'.

Science - Our Body and Healthy Body. We will study the main body parts and internal organs to explore and answer questions that help to understand how the circulatory system enables the body to function. We will describe the ways nutrients and water are transported within animals. We will recognise the importance of healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise on the human body. We will also discuss how to keep our bodies healthy and how our bodies might be damaged.

History - Invaders & Settlers - the study of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will investigate their way of life, settlement, their culture and key events.

Art - We will evaluate the craftsmanship of the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We will use pencils, charcoal and clay to convey feeling and expression within a piece of work.

Design Technology - We will produce some Anglo-Saxon food. We will discuss seasonality and the importance of a healthy diet.

RE - We will be discussing some of the beliefs and Practices of Muslims.

ICT - We will revise the importance of E-Safety. Linked to the History topic we will research on the Vikings which will involve investigating videos the use of audio, titles and credits.

French - **That's tasty.** We will be linking French to our science topic and practise phrases linked with food.

Music - We will develop an understanding of the History of music, looking at Abdelazer Rondeau by Purcell. We will learn to make graphic scores, improvise, compose and perform music with increasing aural memory. We will listen and recall sounds and perform with increasing control, accuracy, fluency and expression.

Games- Rugby and a coach will be teaching football.

PSHE - Linked to our ICT work we will revise keeping safe in cyberspace. We will learn about Nelson Mandela and discuss sustainable development. We will research the Magna Carta and continue to discuss our rights & responsibilities.

Theme Weeks

During the week beginning **23rd September** we are looking forward to the whole school taking part in a 'healthy body' themed week. During this week, there will be a variety of sporting activities for the children to take part in. Some will be led by coaches, such as the skate boarding (KS2) and the scootering (KS1). For that week the children will need their games kits in school and a water bottle.

After half term, we will be continuing our topic on a Healthy body. Within this unit, we will be discussing the importance of a healthy lifestyle, a balanced diet and regular exercise. We will also discuss the effects of alcohol, tobacco and drugs on the human body. For instance knowing that some drugs are necessary and helpful (eg.calpol), but that all drugs need to be treated with caution due to their addictive nature. As part of the session, we will place a cigarette in a plastic bottle with cotton wool. (It is carried out outside away from the children.) This experiment shows how quickly the cotton wool becomes discoloured and the bottle fills with smoke. We will compare this with the effects on the lungs. We will discuss their addictive nature, peer pressure and the importance of saying 'No'. As these sessions can sometimes promote further discussions at home, we wanted to give you notice. If you would like to discuss anything further, please do contact us.

Other Events

5th September - Kingswood meeting for Year 6 parents at 6.30pm

12th September - Musical Instrument 'Taster Session' at 7.00pm

23rd September - Healthy Body Week

26th September - World Languages Day

2nd October - Kingswood Residential for Year 6

18th October - Harvest Festival

22nd October - Parents' Evening

23rd October - Parents' Evening

5th October - Photographs

11th November - Anti-Bullying drama workshop

13th December - Freddy Fit

17th December - Theatre Trip - at Buxton Opera House (details to follow)

PE

PE kits are required on Wednesdays and Fridays. The kit should include: a white PE t-shirt, blue shorts and plimsoles. Then also an outdoor kit comprising jogging bottoms, T-shirt, long sleeved sweatshirt type top, trainers and spare socks. A carrier bag is useful to bring this often wet and dirty kit home.

Grouping Arrangements for Maths and English

Children will be put into different groups for Maths and English by the week beginning 16th September. This year in maths, there will be one class of year 5 children, one class of year 6 children and then one mixed Yr5 & yr6 class. This has been done to deliver our new and exciting Power Maths lessons. Deciding on the grouping process takes a considerable amount of time and will be based on assessments done in the summer term, assessments that we will carry out during this week, and through consultation with their previous teachers. We do intend to carefully monitor the children in all groups during the next few weeks and we will make changes if we feel that a child would benefit from a move. Please bear with us during this time, but if you are worried, we would be happy to discuss your concerns.

Homework

Maths and English homework will usually be issued on Fridays in the autumn term of Year 6. We expect this to be completed and submitted by the following Wednesday.

Maths homework will be issued online using the MyMaths website. Teachers will be reminding children how to access their homework and issue log-in details next week. In English, children will receive homework to support tasks recently completed in class.

He/she will also receive a spelling book with lists that should be learnt weekly. Children should spend an additional 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks.

Teachers expect children to take around twenty minutes for each English and maths homework to be completed. If your child is struggling to complete the allocated piece within this time, please let us know. We do understand that many children take part in activities outside school and this is the reason we have tried to provide a fair and reasonable system so that children can continue to enjoy these clubs without too much homework pressure and by having a week to complete homework.

In addition, we would expect children to read on a regular basis and again this should be recorded in planners. We still believe it is a positive and beneficial exercise for children to read aloud to parents/grandparents/older brothers and sisters at home. Even at this stage, it is extremely helpful if you encourage discussion about the plot, characters and what may happen in the story.

Children have 'Homework Planners' to record their homework and teachers will help your child to write details and dates. Please check planners regularly throughout the week and sign them each weekend.

Lost Property

We will always try to return items of lost clothing/uniform to your child if they are named.

Our School Rule

We should smile and be friendly, be well-mannered and polite, speak the truth, be fair, treat each other well and with respect.

Naturally, we expect a high standard of behaviour and attitude as it is important in order to achieve a happy and purposeful classroom.

Finally

This term, like always, is a busy one. We do appreciate your continued help and support and if you feel that you could help out in other ways, for example by hearing children read for just one hour a week, please get in touch.

Many thanks,

Helen Day, Ashley Stewart, Jo Jones, Barbara Chadwick and Kath Bailey (UKS2 team).