

Year 6 Welcome Newsletter Spring 2020



Dear Parents,

Firstly, may we wish you a very Happy New Year, and thank you for your kind Christmas presents at the end of last term. This term, we have several exciting things happening and we thought you might find it useful to have some information regarding staffing, curriculum, routine and homework.

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)

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

In addition to the regular teaching staff, Mr Coulson will be teaching alongside Mr Stewart (in maths) for several sessions a week. Mrs Gallagher will still be in school covering PPA in UKS2 on Monday & Tuesday and we are delighted that Mrs Potts will be returning to teach, three days a week, from February.

Our Curriculum this term

English - As readers, we will be sharing different types of texts and focusing on developing our reading and comprehension skills. We will explore and interact with stories from other cultures, relating to our class read of *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry. We look forward to using this text to inspire our own narratives. As writers, we will use the key text, 'Trash' to initiate discussion, debate and inspire a range of writing. We will research Brazil and present our findings. We will write and present a balanced argument. We will debate and discuss the rainforests - their use for medicine and scientific discoveries, the impact of our paper usage, deforestation, endangered species and wildlife. We will write letters and be persuasive in our work.

Maths - Geometry, Statistics, Mental Strategies, Number and Problem Solving

Science - As scientists, we will investigate materials by comparing and grouping based on evidence from fair tests. We will plan enquiries and use appropriate techniques and apparatus to conduct tests. We will record and present our own findings and give conclusions based on scientific evidence. We will also be studying evolution & adaptation. We will find out more about how living things on earth have changed over time and how fossils can be used to provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. We will investigate evolution and explain what it is. We will also identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways. We will make links with South America and the different habitats that exist there. We will then link adaptation over time to evolution.

Geography - As geographers, we will locate the world's countries using maps. We will focus on South America, concentrating on its environmental regions, key physical & human characteristics, countries and major cities.

Art - As artists, we will study the art produced by Henri Rousseau and other pieces of work that have been inspired by nature. We will use these as an inspiration for our own artwork and present it using different medium such as charcoal and oil pastels.

Design and Technology – As designers, we will develop skills of sewing textiles. As part of the design we will investigate how to make a pattern, a prototype, sew and shape curved edges, tack, attach ornaments and learn how to start and finish off a row of stitches.

RE – The focus will be on Hinduism and their beliefs. We will question how Brahman can be everywhere and in everything. During the second half term, we will be reflecting on the meaning of Easter to Christians.

ICT – We will revise the importance of E-Safety. We will email communication with a zoo about South American animals and design a template for a collection box for the zoo.

French – As linguists we visit a French town.

Music – As musicians, through samba, we will compose and use a grid to notate rhythms. We will maintain a part within a group with awareness of the performance. We will comment and explain combinations of sounds and their expressive use. We will perform by ear and explain how changes affect the mood, character and sense of a piece of music.

Games & PE – As athletes, we will acquire and develop the skills needed to play the competitive games of Tri-Golf (including putting and chipping) and Cricket (including bowling correctly and striking the ball, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination). We will communicate, collaborate and compete as individuals and as part of a team. In fitness and as gymnasts, we will develop our flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance and compare our performances with previous ones to demonstrate improvement and achieve our personal best.

PSHE – As good and healthy citizens, in our PSHE learning we will learn about Inspirational People such as Martin Luther King, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. We will gain a breadth of language with which to describe the qualities and skills of an inspirational person. We will use this learning to reflect on the qualities and skills of our peers and learn how everyone has their part to play in taking social action. We will learn about the meaning of the word philanthropy through looking at real life examples and consider its importance.

Other Events

7th February – Number Day. We will let you know of further details nearer to the time.

5th March – World Book Day

9th March – We are looking forward to the whole school taking part in National Science Week. During this week, there will be guest presenters and all the child will be carrying out exciting investigations and activities.

1st to 3rd April – Visit to Ilam by Year 5.

SATS Meeting

A SATs meeting will be held this term on Wednesday 4th March at 7pm. This will be an opportunity for teachers to explain more about the SATs tests, revision programme and ideas about how to help your child. Children are welcome to accompany parents.

Planners

Children have 'Homework Planners' to record their homework and teachers will help your child to write details and dates. Please remind your child to record daily reading completed at home, and bring his/her planner to school every day. We would ask you to check planners regularly throughout the week and sign them each weekend.

P.E.

P.E. kits are required on Wednesdays and Fridays. The kit should include: a white P.E. t-shirt, blue shorts and plimsols. In addition, the outdoor kit should comprise of 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.

Library

Year 6 have a library slot on Tuesday, where they have an opportunity to borrow books to read in class and take home. We are very grateful to Mrs Banford for her help leading these sessions. Please help your child to return their books to school on their given date.

Jewellery & Nail Varnish

We have noticed many children are wearing coloured bands, bracelets, necklaces and chains. Please note that these do not conform to our uniform policy, and as a result, we are asking that you do not allow your child to wear these items to school. Please ensure your child does not wear nail varnish to school.

Mobile 'Phones

Many children are bringing mobile 'phones into school, and although this is against our school policy, we appreciate that parents wish children to carry one, especially if walking unsupervised to and from school. If your child brings a 'phone to school, we cannot be held responsible should it be lost, stolen or damaged and we insist that it is kept switched off throughout the day and when on the school premises before and after school.

Homework

Maths and English homework will usually be issued on Fridays. We expect this to be completed and submitted by the following Wednesday.

Maths homework will be either issued online (using the MyMaths website) or as a sheet. 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 Motto

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, Lucy Potts, Barbara Chadwick, Ian Coulson and Kath Bailey (UKS2 team).