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Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break and have managed to stick to your New Year's Resolutions up to now. Weren't the children absolutely fantastic in their Christmas production! We were so proud of all of them, including some 'unexpected' stars who brought us some very memorable moments. As always, we have a busy term ahead but I know the children will work hard and continue with the excellent progress they have made.

English

This term, we are going to tackle some more Shakespeare. Macbeth is our key text – lots of drama and tragedy, which I know will go down a storm. We will also be looking at some classic poetry: The Lady of Shallot by Alfred Lord Tennyson and The Raven by Edgar Allan Pie – both are very challenging but are worth the effort and I know the children will enjoy exploring them. We will be reading as much and as widely as possible, both fiction and non-fiction linked to all subjects. Book Week starts on 27th February with dressing up day on Friday 3rd – I can't wait to see more of your fantastic creative ideas.

Our writing this term will include newspaper reports, explanation texts and discussion texts (another big hit I'm sure – lots of strong opinions in Y6!) as well as short stories. My teaching focus this half term will be on high quality vocabulary, using dialogue to develop characters and plot, passive voice (tricky!) and using a wide range of punctuation, which you will see in their reading homework. To reach age related expectations for Y6, the children must be writing legible in a cursive, joined style and spelling must be accurate. Keeping an eye on this when they are completing homework would be a real help.

www.kidsspell.com, www.topmarks.co.uk and www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize all have games to support spelling and grammar.

I am absolutely delighted with the reading habits of the majority of the children – almost everyone reads a significant amount of text every night. Thank you so much for encouraging them. This term, it is more important than ever that they build up their fluency and stamina so please nag if you need to. The children will be bringing some examples of SATs style questions home. They are very used to doing these questions verbally in guided reading and now we are practising writing answers accurately, precisely and quickly. The children also have access to our online reading programme 'Oxford Reading Buddy' which are longer texts and also ask children SATs style questions.

Maths

This term, we will focus on choosing appropriate strategies (mental, jottings or formal calculations) to prepare children for the demands of the arithmetic test. We will revise knowledge and skills in all aspects



of maths but the real focus will be on using and applying those in problem solving situations. Homework will provide extra practise using SATs style questions. All children have free access to 'Mathletics' and we are encouraging the children to use this at home for extra practise. www.arcademics.com and www.mathplayground are also full of fun maths games. Children need to be really secure with multiplication and division facts up to the 12 times tables and they also need to learn equivalent measures (length, weight, capacity, time and money).

PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT TUESDAY IS THE NEW HOMEWORK DAY

I am changing the day as it seems to fit better with routines and the provision of Homework Club on a Wednesday. Homework will be given out on a Tuesday to be handed in the following Tuesday. We do spend class time going over successes and things we need to practise so it is hugely important that children have their work with them.

Science

Our focus this term is how diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle have a massive impact on our health. We will also be looking at electricity and light, which involves lots of practical activities to help us understand how light travels and how we are able to see.

R.E.

We will be looking at the question 'How does religion help people through good times and bad?' which looks particularly at worldviews around death and grief. We will also be considering what it means to be Jewish in Britain today.

Our **geography** work this term explores how we are damaging our environment but also gives us opportunities to consider how we might minimise this. **Computing** covers online safety and in **art** we will be focusing on painting and printing. **PHSE** and Citizenship work is focused around recognising and managing pressure and valuing diversity.

P.E. continues on Monday and **swimming** resumes on Fridays for this half term. Please ensure the children have their kit in school by Friday the 6th January so that lessons can begin promptly and valuable time is not wasted. Please be aware that due to swimming now being on a Friday afternoon, there is a chance that the children will be back slightly later than the end of school.

In accordance with health and safety updated guidance, **earrings should not be worn on P.E. days unless children are able to remove them and put them back in themselves.** If your child requires an inhaler, it is essential that you make sure they are in date and in school. PE is a vital part of our school curriculum. As well as introducing the children to lots of different sports and promoting healthy lifestyles, as part of the national curriculum, PE is a statutory subject.

You may be aware that we are making some changes to our playtime provision to promote co-operate, imaginative play and build resilience. This is part of a well-established programme (OPAL – outdoor play and learning) and it is all very exciting. Our field provides much needed extra space and we want to make more use of it whatever the weather but as you know it can get quite muddy. If your child has a pair of wellies they could bring into school, they will be able to access activities on the field. Wait until you see our



wellie storage! We would be very grateful to receive any wellies that your child may have outgrown if they are looking for a new home along with any dressing up clothes or wheeled vehicles – diggers, tippers etc.

We have lots of hard work ahead as we begin preparations for the national tests (**SATs week – Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May due to the coronation on Monday 8th**). The tests will be, without a doubt, very challenging. However, there is no need for anyone to panic or start feeling stressed. We will prepare thoroughly and provide the children with lots of opportunities to practise their skills. They will see lots of examples of test style questions so that by the time the tests come around it will be “just another day at the office” as they say on TV!

We have booked our Seahouses trip for the week beginning 24th May. It is difficult to give an exact price at the moment but last year’s cost was £150 and £75 for any children in receipt of school meals (heavily subsidised by school funds). As always, we will do all we can to keep costs down because we firmly believe that the trip is hugely beneficial in so many ways and we want as many children to access it as possible. I will be in touch at a later date with information about savings plans (if your house is anything like ours, you’ll be needing time to recover after Christmas spending!!)

I look forward to seeing you at Parents Evening on 1st and 2nd March. However, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Thank you for your support last term. I look forward to another very successful term with a great class of children and continuing our journey to ‘be the best we can be’.

Your interest is greatly appreciated.

Mrs M Brown

