

Year 6 Newsletter

Spring term 2024



Happy 2024 to you all!

We have had a fabulous first term in year 6 and look forward to seeing the children enjoy success as they continue to develop and learn.

Arrangements for staff in year 6 continue with the class teacher for 6HM, Miss Hannah Morris with Mrs Ashley Howes as her teaching assistant and the class teachers for 6JM, Mrs Jenny May (Mon – Tues) and Mrs Jen McMahon (Wed – Fri) with Mrs Janet Gerrard as their teaching assistant.

In the mornings, the children will continue to work in smaller mixed ability English and Maths groups allowing their learning to be fully focused to their individual needs and in these groups, Mrs Mel Montgomery continues leading a third group with teaching assistant, Mrs Gill Gibbons.

THE CURRICULUM

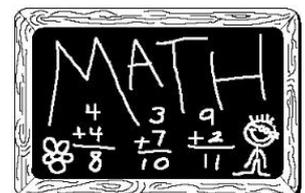
In English we will;

- Start the term by focusing on **balanced discussion writing** using the book *'The Island'* by Armin Greder – a powerful book looking at how we treat others. This unit involves quality discussion and justification, leading to writing counterarguments and will continue to use **descriptive narrative writing** for a variety of purposes.
- Develop the skills needed to read aloud and understand our **reading** such as retrieval, inference, use of vocabulary, predictions, author intentions etc through the use of the main text *'The Children of Benin'*. We will also study 'snippets' of other texts such as Shakespeare and Private Peaceful by Micheal Morpurgo. It is very important that the children read as much as they can and we welcome those opportunities at home and will be ensuring there are as many opportunities for individual reading as possible at school. Each child will have a Project X book at their level to support their reading progress.
- We will continue to have a grammar and spelling focus to support the children to write accurately.



In Maths we will;

- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Calculating using the order of calculations (BODMAS)
- Using imperial measures
- Reading scales and using measures
- In arithmetic, develop all formal methods of calculation
- Calculate volume
- Understanding percentages
- Mental calculations
- Translations and reflections
- The 24-hour clock and timetables
- Continue to develop problem solving and reasoning skills to apply to a variety of mathematical problems on a daily basis.



In Science we will;

Recap past learning and build on this with new learning through one topic a term and within these topics, study different scientists. An emphasis will be on using the practical scientific skills in regular investigations and 'hands-on' opportunities.



'To Infinity and Beyond'

- Understand the planets of the solar system and the movement of the Earth and moon.
- Research and become aware of Space exploration through the ages.
- Use symbols in circuit diagrams
- Explain the role of Micro-organisms and how we manage them.

'Ice Age'

- Classify animals and identify the main animal groupings
- Identify the features different animals have to adapt to their habitats
- Explain variation in offspring
- Explain the stages of the human life cycle

In History we will;

Study the **Benin Kingdom 900 – 1300 AD.**

- Challenge our thoughts and understanding of several concepts.
- Concentrate on the history from 900 -1300AD when the kingdom was at the start of its rise to power and influence.
- Understand that this is a period when stories, news and the way of life was passed through families through a rich and long tradition of storytelling.
- Understand that there is little recorded evidence in either written or artistic form which means that much of the knowledge is hypothesis instead of fact.



In Geography we will;

Focus on **Global Trade** and how important trade is to the UK.

- Find out about how goods and services are traded around the world.
- Explore the UK's trade links today and in the past.
- Find out about goods imported and exported and how they are transported.
- Learn about the benefits of trading internationally as well as the risks to this area.
- Learn about Fairtrade and why it is important in a global market.



In RE we will;

- Look at **Hinduism** around the world and what we can learn from some aspects of the Hindu religion.



In Computing we will;

- Look at **Web Page creation** - Children will be introduced to creating websites for a chosen purpose. They will identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own web page. Throughout the process, learners pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.
- Look at **Programming – Variables in Games** - This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard, experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, before they create their own project.
- Look at the e safety units: Online Reputation, Safer Internet day, Online Relationships
- Use the Office tools (Word, Powerpoint, Publisher, Excel) regularly across the curriculum.



In PE we will;

- Develop skills and play games in a number of games but Athletics in particular. There will also be a focus on dance and static balance will be visited using our new 'Real PE' scheme. The children will continue to benefit from lessons from outside providers.



In Art and DT we will;

- Develop sculpture skills using clay and the associated techniques.
- Use our art skills to produce a high-quality piece of art to go with work from the curriculum.
- Practise the skills of using wood to create structures. The sequence of steps will be to look at existing structures to understand their strengths, then design, make and evaluate their own furniture.



Other subjects covered; Music, Drama, PHSE and French

Other Information

- Homework will continue to be set weekly (English and Maths). This will be set on 'Teams' and the children must hand it in on 'Teams'. This is so that they can become fully familiar with doing homework electronically ready for secondary school. **Work is posted on a Friday and MUST be returned by the following Thursday.**
- Homework will not be set during school holidays.
- Children continue to come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Currently the days are Tuesday and Friday. Children are expected to wear white shirts, black shorts/track suit bottoms and trainers. In the winter we will continue with PE outside so warm PE clothes are important on those days.

The year 6 team have thoroughly enjoyed working with our year 6 children and families. We are very much looking forward our next term and if there are any queries or worries, please don't hesitate to talk to us; we are always happy to help in any way we can.

Best wishes

The year 6 team.