

## Year 6 Newsletter Spring 1 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Year 6 Team wishes you a happy new year. Our learning focus this half term is 'Heritage and Culture'. Below we have outlined what we will be covering as part of this topic, in addition to our English and Maths work. We hope that you will get involved in your children's research and contribute to their learning by discussing and supporting their schoolwork at home.



### Attendance

It is important that your child's attendance remains above **97.5%** so that they do not fall behind.

### As readers and writers...

Our focus texts for this half term will be 'Rose Blanche' by Christophe Gallaz and 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll.

We will be using the two texts to delve into the key themes. We will explore writing a narrative, a diary and a newspaper report.



Every child will read every day and additionally, they may select books from the library. Spellings will be coming home weekly and will be tested in class.

The teaching of reading continues with daily work focusing on VIPERS skills (vocabulary, inference, predictions, explanation, retrieval and summary) with themes of Chocolate, Victorians and Twisted Tales.

### As mathematicians we will...

We will be completing the objectives relating to fractions from Autumn 2 before moving on to the following:

#### Ratio:

- Using the language of ratio
- Using the ratio symbol
- Ratio and fractions
- Scale drawings
- Using scale factors
- Similar shapes
- Solving ratio and proportion problems
- Scaling recipes

#### Algebra:

- One and two step function machines
- Forming expressions
- Substitution
- Formulae
- Forming equations
- Solving 1 and 2 step equations
- Finding pairs of values
- Solving problems with two unknowns

#### Decimals:

- Place value to 3 decimal places
- Rounding decimals
- Adding and subtracting decimals
- Multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, 1000
- Multiply and divide decimals by integers

### As theologians...

We will be looking at Buddhist literature and art. We will explore The Tripikata (Three Baskets) and discuss what we can learn from 2 Buddhist stories.



### As scientists...

We will be learning about evolution and inheritance. Looking at both humans and animals, we will look at adaption and using fossils as evidence to show evolution. We will learn about Charles Darwin's theory 'Survival of the Fittest'.



### As computer scientists...

We will be learning about how computers take and store input from a user, then use it later as a program runs. We will then use variables to store and modify data before planning and programming our own programmes.

### As designers...

We will be research and analysing motorised cars before constructing our own motorised car. We will then test and evaluate our product.

### As artists...

We will be focusing on creating 3D collages, using techniques such as coiling and overlapping to add to a background considering the foreground, middle ground and background. We will then create a collage to represent the Industrial Revolution. We will also look at weaving reflecting back on our Autumn 2 topic.



### As athletes...



We will be focusing on all-over body fitness and trying to improve our fitness from Autumn 1. We will also be developing our gymnastic skills including balance and travelling (including rolls). We will then work in unison to create sequences to perform to each other.

### As linguists...

We will be learning how to talk about foods, other countries, time and directions. We will use these skills to make a menu plan and a travel plan.



### As good citizens...

We will be thinking about Heritage and Values. We will discuss issues around drug use and peer pressure. We will focus on the habits and habitudes of patient and compassionate.



### As musicians...

We will be focusing on Benjamin Britten's Friday Afternoons: A New Year Carol. We will compare different versions of the song and learn to sing both versions. We will also listen to different versions of I Mun be Married on Sunday and Fishing Song also by Benjamin Britten.



### As historians...

We will be investigating: the causes of World War Two; the Holocaust and the Blitz. We will be learning about Anne Frank and exploring a range of perspectives on evacuation. Our core text 'Rose Blanche' will support our learning on the Holocaust and the war in Germany whilst 'Letters from the Lighthouse' will support our learning on the war in Britain. We will also get the opportunity to handle a range of objects from the war during our Handling History workshop.



### As geographers...

We will be developing our map skills. We will use atlases to complete maps representing the British Empire. We will interpret maps of the UK showing changes in population during the Industrial Revolution and tabulate the information we extract.



## Notices and reminders

- Please encourage the use of Maths Shed and Sumdog at home. These are both excellent resources to develop your child's mathematical fluency. Each week a Sumdog task is set which is part of the homework.
- Please ensure that your child is reading daily and recording this in their reading record. It is expected they will record in it at least 5 times over a week. Please try and listen to your child once a week and sign their reading record.
- Homework will be set every Friday and needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday morning at the latest. There is a task and arithmetic questions. This can be completed on Showbie or in the homework book. Please try and comment on your child's work.
- Please ensure that your child is learning the weekly spellings. These can be found on Showbie and on Spelling Shed. They will be tested on the following Friday.
- Please help your child to learn the facts in the Maths Fact File set each week. This can be found on Showbie and is a set of facts which children will need to know for their SATs. There will be a test on Friday.
- On Showbie, each week, there are maths, reading and grammar questions that are in the SAT style. Although optional, this is a good way for your child to practise answering this style of question in preparation for May.
- PE is on Thursdays and Fridays. The children must ensure that their PE kits to school.
- Soft starts will be Monday to Thursday from 8:40.
- We will be going to Croydon Fire Station to participate in the Junior Citizenship Scheme on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January.
- We will be going to Chislehurst Caves on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- We will be having a World War 2 workshop run by Renia Jenkins from Handling History on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- If you have any further questions, we will be in the playground each afternoon at 3.25pm and are more than happy to talk.

Thank you for your support.

### Year 6 Team

Class Teachers: Mrs Smith and Miss Fisher

TAs: Ms White, Ms Child and Ms Davis

UKS2 Phase Leader: Mrs Smith