Friday 5th November 2021

**Curriculum Newsletter and Parent Information: Term 2**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families are all well and had an enjoyable half term. The children have started the term brightly, showing excellent focus while being eager to engage with the learning. We are continuing to enjoy the knowledge-rich curriculum and are excited about the prospect of applying this knowledge as the year progresses. Our learning about World War One last term has clearly had an impact as the children prepare for Remembrance.

Just so you are aware, there will be an assessment week for Year 6 later this term. This is to help gauge the impact of the teaching so far and for me to see which areas still need addressing- these will help inform our planning for future terms to ensure that gaps are filled prior to transition for secondary school.

Below is the outline of the curriculum areas we will be covering this term.

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| **Subject** | **Areas to be covered** |
| **Maths** | We will continue to use Maths No Problem which is in line with the Singapore Maths approach. This encourages children to use manipulatives to support learning and approach mathematical problems in different ways. Children will also be developing their mathematical thinking in a range of contexts with particular focus on:   * **Fractions to solve problems:** Simplify, compare, order, add, subtract, multiply and divide. * **Decimals**: multiplication and division to solve problems. |
| **English** | We have started this term by composing **formal letters** to serving soldiers. Through analysing the impact of letters upon the reader, we will develop our structure and content for effect. Our letters will be sent for the soldiers to open them at Christmas time.  We will be using our Talk For Writing approach with a section of text from **Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver** to drive our teaching of vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. Our focus for this term is descriptive writing using varied sentence structures and punctuation. We will **revise compound and complex sentence structures and sentence openers while also developing understanding of parentheses, colons, semi-colons and hyphens.**  In Reading lessons, will be continuing work on our retrieval and inference skills and will apply these to a variety of fiction and non-fiction text excerpts. |
| **Science** | Our Science topic this term is **‘Evolution and Inheritance’.** During this topic, the children will learn how living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. They will learn how living things produce offspring of the same kind and about natural variation. They will also develop their scientific enquiry skills exploring how and why animals and plants have adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution. |
| **RE** | **This term, we will be asking, ‘What would Jesus do?’ and examining the concept of the Messiah.** In order to do this, we will be exploring key questions such as:   * What are the connections between biblical texts and the idea of Jesus as Messiah? What are the connections between texts and what Christians believe about Jesus as Messiah?  How do Christians express their beliefs about Jesus as Prince of Peace and as one who transforms lives, through bringing peace and transformation in the world? |
| **Computing** | This term we will be understanding the role of **Bletchley Park** in **cracking codes** and will be using a range of codes ourselves, including ciphers. We will also learn about important figures in the **history of Computing** including Alan Turing, Margaret Hamilton and Steve Jobs. |
| **Geography** | In Geography, children will be exploring **maps.** We will be focusing on: longitude and latitude, time zones, climate regions, map projection and how maps can help us understand the differences about places, people and the environment. |
| **DT** | This term, we will be looking at **electrical systems.** We will learn about circuits and plan, build and evaluate a game that uses an electrical system. |
| **French** | We will be continuing to develop our **French vocabulary and grammar** through speaking and listening in the context of conversation and specific grammar-based games. Later this term, Mrs Rugg will be hosting a French café activity for the children, where they will have the opportunity to apply the skills learnt in this unit. |
| **PE** | PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons this term. Mr Kenward will be teaching a range of Basketball techniques and skills on Mondays, while our local sports partnership, supported by Mrs Coomber, will be teaching Badminton on Wednesdays. |
| **Music** | This term, we will be learning about **Jazz** music. This will include listening and responding to different pieces of Jazz and **using instruments to repeat musical phrases and improvise.** |
| **PSHE** | We use a comprehensive **PSHE programme** to support us in developing fully rounded children who are healthy, sociable and emotionally literate. It covers key concepts and skills to support pupils’ spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and teach British Values. The programme builds on the core theme areas identified by the PSHE Association:   * Health and Wellbeing * Relationships * Living in the Wider World |

**Parent Information**

**Year 6 Staff-Term 2**

**Teachers**

Mr Kenward- Monday-Friday

Mr Truman- Monday-Thursday (Mr Kenward is continuing to mentor and support Mr Truman in the planning and delivery of lessons)

**Teaching Assistants**

Mrs Rugg (Monday-Thursday am, Monday and Thursday pm)

Mrs Perrott (Monday, Tuesday and Friday am)

Mrs Coomber (PPA cover-Wednesday pm)

**Home Learning**



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| **Task** | **How this will be set/recorded** | **Day the task will be set** |
| Reading | Please use the school’s reading record to comment on how your child is getting on with their reading at home. Staff will check reading records regularly and will support children in changing their reading books when required.  Please use the question stems provided to help develop your child’s comprehension skills. | Ongoing- we encourage children to read every day. |
| Spellings | In Key Stage 2, we will be using Sir Linkalot as a starter during our spelling lessons. The spelling ‘bundle’ being looked at in these lessons is sent home so these can be practised if they wish to. If your child is confident with all the spellings in the bundle, we would encourage them to explore the spelling patterns from the higher levels if they would like an extra challenge. | Friday  Ongoing-optional. |
| Times Table Rockstars | We would like the children to spend some time on Times Table Rockstars each week. Little and often is best- we would recommend a few minutes each day of possible. There will be a Times Tables Rockstars session in school each week where teachers will be able to monitor children’s progress. | Ongoing- we would recommend at least 5 minutes every day. |
| Knowledge Organisers | These are designed as something to look at and discuss with your child at home. This also provides children with the chance to further research any areas they find particularly interesting. | Beginning of term 2 |
| Additional home learning | Sometimes, class teachers may set additional paper-based tasks (particularly in Upper Key Stage 2) or Maths Shed tasks where we feel it will benefit children’s learning. | Ongoing, as necessary. |

**PE**

PE lessons during term 2 will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child’s PE kit is in school every day. They will need:

* their house-coloured PE t-shirt
* black/navy shorts or a skort (in warmer weather)/jogging bottoms (in colder weather)
* trainers
* grey/white socks.

**What do children need to bring to school?**

Please can children bring the following items each day:

* A book bag or a **small** rucksack. No large bags please.
* A clearly labelled water bottle.
* A packed lunch (if not having school lunch).
* Their reading book and reading record.
* Their PE kit.
* A sun hat and sun cream (if they can self-administer and weather permitting).
* A coat/hats and gloves (weather permitting).

If the weather is warm, parents will be advised to put sun-cream on their child before coming to school. **Children are only allowed to bring into school the items listed above**, ie. no pencil cases, toys etc.

**Communication**



If you have any urgent messages, these can be given to a member of staff on the school gate each morning. If you wish to speak to us in person, please come and see us at school pick up or phone the school office to arrange an appointment.

**Remote Learning during Isolation**

Children who are isolating due to Covid or who are unable to come to school for any other reason while remaining well are able to access the class notebook via Teams to see the daily learning, in the same way the learning was accessed during school closures. Please let us know if you need a reminder of login details or how to access the OneNote notebook.

Any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks,

The Year 6 team