

Year 6 Spring Term 2024 – Topic Information for Parents

Happy New Year everyone!

Class 13 – Mrs Glynn

Class 14 – Miss Ward

Year 6 LSA – Mrs Rimmer and Mr McGauran

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

We will start the term by reading and exploring a fairy tale with flashbacks. The children will be studying the main characters and exploring how the plot is developed. They will then be writing their own additional scenes in the style of this author.

Following this, children will be writing an explanation linked to our science topic. Our key focus will be on how living creatures have changed over time to adapt to their environments.

The children will continue to have weekly reading sessions with the teacher, focussing particularly upon reading and responding appropriately to more challenging texts. Please remember that all children should have their current reading book in school everyday so that they can read independently or to an adult whenever possible. The children also need to read regularly at home and discuss what they have read with you.

The children will also continue to participate in weekly grammar and spelling sessions in class. Our approach to learning and testing spellings on a weekly basis appears to be going well and we have noticed an improvement in spelling in the children's written work. Thank you for your support with this.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

While continuing to develop the core maths children have learnt so far this year, we will continue to explore decimals, calculating fractions and long division and the new learning will be area, ratio and measurements, Algebra, percentages and statistics.

The children will also work on applying their knowledge of calculation strategies to a variety of increasingly challenging problem-solving contexts.

Times Tables Rock Star

Children must be using Times Tables Rock Stars. This programme provides the children with opportunities to practise their times tables in a variety of different ways and through various interactive games and personal challenges allowing them to develop speed and accurate recall. We will also provide opportunities to challenge other year groups as well as across classes. They can also challenge their teacher to a match!

This term, we will continue to work through our Bronze, Silver, Gold challenges.

HOMEWORK

This will be given out on Fridays via Google Classrooms and is due in the following Wednesday. Most of the homework will be based on the 10-minute SATS booster books.

Please complete and mark their homework before sending back (answers at the back) as this will allow us to see where the challenges are and plan for them to be discussed on a Friday.

Modern foreign Language (MFL) French

In our French lessons, we will be learning about La Galette Des Rois, numbers 1-100, where we live, places in town, directions and weather.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Science

This term we will be studying inheritance and evolution, focussing on the work of the famous naturalist, Charles Darwin. We will also classifying a range of living things based on their characteristics. The children will continue to develop their planning and investigative skills across a range of scientific concepts.

Computing

The children will be using Book Creator to experiment with making an e-book. The children will investigate a range of coded languages and writing code in Python. We will also update our class page of the website regularly so you can see photographs of our learning. Please do take time to visit our class pages.

RE

The two topics this term are “God” and “The Empty Cross” in which the children will study the symbolism of the crucifix in the Christian faith and look at the concept of God in different religions.

History

The focus will be the ancient Mayan civilization. We will be learning:

- About who the ancient Mayan people were and where and when they lived
- Their religious beliefs and rituals
- Comparing them to another Ancient Civilisation

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
<p>Outdoor games this term will be netball and hockey. Indoor PE will be gymnastics and dance. The dance unit will be based on street dance. In gymnastics we will be using the wall bars to focus on a mirroring and matching routine.</p> <p>Please ensure children wear appropriate kit for PE (both for indoor and outdoor). Children must be wearing the school jumper/fleece on a PE day.</p> <p>Outdoor Games/ Orienteering: Tuesday</p> <p>Indoor PE: Thursday</p>	<p>We are continuing to embed HeartSmart to support Personal, Social, Health and Emotional development. It is values based and supportive of a Growth Mindset and supports positive mental health.</p> <p>We are looking at another of the HeartSmart principles this term:</p> <p>1. Too much selfie isn't healthy</p> <p>Often we're encouraged to think about our needs, our rights and the things that we can have. None of which is necessarily bad but it's just that it can squeeze others out of frame and all that's left is us, looming large. Sometimes we need to lift our eyes from our phones and look up at the world around us which is full of different people with different values and different beliefs. It's a vibrant and wonderful place where everyone is different. It's not that we have to agree with everyone but everyone is worthy of our attention, love and empathy.</p> <p>Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy is about working well with others, about being a good listener and understanding that life is more about we than me. Love without action isn't love, it's a thought. Love requires an out; love does. By contributing to the lives of others we find fulfilment for ourselves and learn that Too Much Selfie isn't Healthy!</p> <p>We will also be looking at the principle: Don't Hold onto What is Wrong Over Spring 2, we want children to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important forgiveness is to building strong and healthy relationships. When we get hurt we often want to get even. The drive for justice and to make things fair is strong, but resentment ends up hurting ourselves. The only way through hurt is to rub it out. Forgiveness is the best gift that we can give ourselves and it's an important theme in the Bible, it even finds its way into the LORD's prayer. This term gives opportunity for children to explore this theme creatively • The importance of processing negative emotions healthily, not burying them, but letting them out. Children consider how this might be done without hurting others in the process and reflect on where they might go, who they might talk to and what they might do if they're feeling sad. If their leg hurts they might sit down, if they have a headache they might lie down or take a tablet. What do they do when their heart hurts? <p>We will also continue to make explicit links with our core Christian values of Love, Hope and faith and with the British values wherever possible (which are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs).</p>
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Music</u></p> <p>The children will be studying Amazing Machines. They will be listening to a range of rhythmical music to identify and understand more complex rhythm patterns and metres and the relationship between them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Art</u></p> <p>The children will be developing their observational sketching skills by drawing local landscapes. They will study David Hockney's artwork and create their own landscape art inspired by him. They will also study the structure of feathers and develop a block printing design inspired by the works of Andrew Ellis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>DT</u></p> <p>The Automata Animals unit gives children opportunities to develop understanding of mechanical systems. Children learn about controlling movement with a cam mechanism as part of automata animal. They develop their designing skills through using information sources to research ideas about animals which are then incorporated into the design criteria and designs. They make a simple cam mechanism which creates the movement of their chosen animal.</p>	

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We will start the new year with a focus on the value of Justice (Spring 1) where we will be reflecting on:

- What strategies are in place to ensure that rules and procedures in the school are fair and just?
- How does our school ensure that it is an inclusive community for all?
- How do we help children to be aware of global justice issues?

And then the value of Courage (Spring 2) where we will be reflecting on:

- How do we help members of our school community who are facing difficult times?
- How do we encourage others to share their fears and worries?
- How do we demonstrate our core values to everyone in our school community?

Our Year 6 ambassadors will be leading whole school worship with support each half term too.

We will continue to make explicit links with our core Christian values of Love, Hope and faith and with the British values wherever possible (which are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs).

Many thanks, Year 6 Team