



## **Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year 2020-2021. It feels like it has been a while since we last saw everyone but the children are all settling well and enjoying being back at school. Please find below a summary of Year 6's main learning areas for this term. We are sure you will agree that Year 6 is a significant year in the life of your children, as they will embark on their last year at primary school before moving on to secondary school. Our main focus this year will be towards both the SATS tests later in the year, and the transition from primary to secondary education. Please find below a summary of the main learning areas during the first term this year along with some general reminders.

### **English**

Our English lessons this year will be following the National Curriculum covering reading and writing, with a focus on SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) especially targeting any gaps from learning they have missed. The children will have the opportunity to write in a variety of styles and genres, whilst understanding the intricacies of grammar, and how writing is structured. Our lessons will revolve around key texts, currently continuing with the wartime story of 'Letters from the Lighthouse' which they began reading in Year 5. The first new text will be introduced to the class in the coming weeks. These texts will act as a stimulus for writing, whilst also engaging the children in the reading of quality texts. This term the children will be writing stories, diary entries, recounts, information texts and persuasive texts. Additionally, they will be using their writing skills across the curriculum, in lessons such as Science and Geography.

### **Maths**

As with English, our Maths lessons will follow the National Curriculum. The term will begin with a focus on place value, including rounding, positive and negative numbers, and the value of digits. We will then focus closely on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, to provide a strong base to develop our knowledge across the rest of the year. Maths lessons will be driven by investigation, with the children encouraged to explain their thinking by reasoning, and problem solving on a regular basis. There will also be regular arithmetic work, as the children refine their mental and written methods for all four operations (+, -, x, ÷).

### **P.E.**

Year 6 will have PE sessions every Wednesday with Mr Franco and Mr Turner. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on these days. PE kit includes a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, black shorts, black joggers/an outdoor jumper (when the weather requires it), outdoor trainers and a water bottle.

### **M.F.L. (Modern Foreign Languages)**

Later in the term, the children will be taught French with a focus on speaking simple phrases.

## **Topic**

In Year 6, our topic will be following our Geography unit on the 'Extreme Earth', looking at natural phenomena such as volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis. This theme will run throughout the term and will be touched upon during topic lessons, as well as incorporating skills covered in art, design and technology, music, English and computing lessons.

## **Homework**

English homework focuses on both reading and spelling.

**Reading** is vital to success across the curriculum, as it influences everything from spelling to writing to imagination. In Year 6, children need to read for the equivalent of at least **20 - 30 minutes** every school night (it might be that some nights they read more than other nights). We would very much appreciate you listening to your child's reading and discussing their book with them. They need to complete their reading record each time they read and we also request that you sign your child's reading record book and, if possible, add a comment. This will really help your child to progress in reading and writing. Every morning, reading records will be checked and we value any feedback you can provide us with.

**Spelling** homework will be sent out on a Wednesday and the children will be tested on them on the following Monday. Teachers will ask the children to learn their spellings in a variety of ways e.g. putting them in sentences with a preposition in, putting the word into a question. Spellings will be given depending upon the groups that the children are in and scores will be recorded. Other formal written homework will not be sent home. Children need to remember to return their spelling book on time.

For **Maths** homework, the children will be using Maths Whizz ([www.whizz.com](http://www.whizz.com)), an online maths education website that is tailored to each individual child. The children are required to complete **45 minutes** of maths whizz per week. Maths Whizz will start each Monday, and one hour must be completed by each Sunday evening. If your child has no access to the internet, written homework can be provided.

In addition, children are required to practise multiplication tables and division facts to aid rapid recall. In school the children will be using TT Rock Stars ([trockstars.com](http://trockstars.com)) to learn their times tables, and they should practise this at home for **15 minutes** each week using the free app for phones, tablets and laptops. Every week there will be an informal check as part of the maths lesson.

If you have any questions at all, please do speak to me and I will try my best to answer them. There will be fortnightly curriculum newsletters in which we shall keep you updated and informed about our learning, particularly with regards to English and Maths. We shall also provide any extra details you will need, such as changes to timetables, notifications, etc. There will be regular updates over the term on our class pages on the school website, plus information on our Facebook pages.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead so thank you in advance for your continued support.

Miss Smith

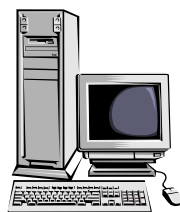
Mrs Lee and Mrs Spencer (Classroom TAs)

## Year 6 Curriculum Topics – Autumn Term 2020



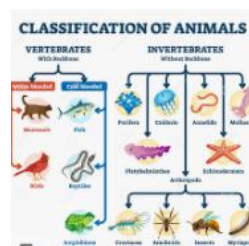
### Topic

In Geography, we will be looking at the causes and effects of volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis, as well as how local people cope with living in such harsh environments.



### Computing

The children will be carrying out research for our topic and will be using multimedia presentations in science. The children will be accessing several platforms including laptops and tablets.



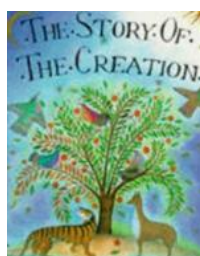
### Science

Our first topic is *Living Things*. The children will learn about micro-organisms, and the identification and classification of different animals and plants.



### Art

As well as creating some topic-based art, the focus this term will be on sketch book skills. This will mostly be drawing but will also include some painting, collage and sculpture.



### SMSC / RE

The children will start the year with a focus on creation. We will look at a variety of creation stories from different religions and cultures.



### Physical Education

PE in the Autumn term will focus on Netball with Mr Franco and Athletics/Fitness with Mr Turner.



### Music

This term, the focus will be on listening and appreciation of music. We will listen to different styles and genres as well as learning about some famous composers.



### Design Technology

Our technology this term will focus on structures (particularly playground structures) and will link to our topic by looking at those structures that could possibly withstand extreme weather events.



### Geography / History

We will be using map skills to locate the Ring of Fire and many famous volcanoes. We will be looking at key events in history, such as Pompeii, and will look at how these events have impacted on the people living in those areas.