

Year 6 Newsletter

Summer 1

Our topic/theme this half term is: ***‘Lights, Camera, Action!’***

In this topic, we will explore the work of William Shakespeare and consider how themes in his plays are still relevant today.

Our Key Texts this half term are:

Adaptations of Shakespeare plays including Macbeth, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Richard III and Julius Caesar.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Guided Reading this half term, we will be using a range of different skills to answer questions at speed, addressing a range of objectives within our sessions:

- Read all Y5/6 exception words, discussing the unusual correspondence between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word.
- Draw inferences, such as characters’ feelings, thoughts and motives and justifying these inferences with evidence.
- Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning and consider how authors use language, including figurative language, to have an impact on the reader.
- Provide reasoned justifications for our views.
- Retrieve, record and present information from increasingly complex non-fiction.
- Read books and plays that are structured in different ways.

Writing:

In Year 6, we will be developing the following writing skills, along with others previously covered:

- Plan writing of narratives through reasoned consideration of how authors have developed characters and settings in what the class have read, listened or seen performed.
- Draft and write narratives by describing settings, characters and atmosphere, and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action.
- Evaluate and edit by ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register.

We will be writing a range of different text types in the half-term, refining our ability to plan, write and edit for different purposes. We will be conscious of the audience for which we are writing and considering how to use the range of skills we have been taught to entertain and inform the reader.

In grammar, we will be revisiting key learning from earlier in the year based on the needs of the class – this could include revision of word classes, clauses, different tenses and the active and passive voice.

Our Maths learning this half term:

This half-term, we will be consolidating our learning from across the year with each class identifying their focus dependent upon the needs of the children.

We will also develop our problem-solving and reasoning skills, focused on the following aims:

- Reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language.
- Solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

In Science this half term, we will learning about electricity.

We will focus on these areas of knowledge:

- I can associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit
- I can compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches
- I can use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Notice causal relationships in data and identify evidence that refutes or supports their ideas
- Recognise when and how to set up comparative and fair tests and explain which variables need to be controlled and why
- Raise different types of questions and select the most appropriate type of enquiry to answer them
- Choose most appropriate equipment and use precisely.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on 3-D modelling, and exploring differences with 2D graphics, progressing to create accurate 3D models of physical objects.

- I can represent 3D objects on a computer.
- I can explain why computers are sometimes used to represent things.
- I can explain the strengths and weaknesses of using a simulation compared to the real thing.
- I can create, edit and manipulate a 3D model.

Our digital literacy unit will be on selling stereotypes and how these gender stereotypes can be limiting.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History/Citizenship:

This half term, we will discover some of William Shakespeare's famous plays and explore different key questions that come out of them. We will learn about the plays and explore key themes, including some of the following:

- Who is most to blame for the tragedy in Macbeth?
- Is it acceptable to seek revenge? (Hamlet)
- Where does information come from and how reliable is it? (Richard III)
- What are our dreams and aspirations? (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
- What are people's different political viewpoints? (Julius Caesar)

RE:

We will be learning about how and why religions help other people (looking at different faiths and non-belief) – we will make connections between this and our own fundraising events in school.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be learning about how to describe ourselves, our interests and details about our lives.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art/DT: In this topic, we will be exploring chair design over the centuries to understand how furniture can reflect or define the age in which it was made, or show an artist's personality. Children will work towards designing their own model of a chair.

We will develop the following skills:

- Explore the work of artists and record visual notes that will help inspire our future work.
- Making observational sketches
- Use the 'Design through making' technique.
- Use a variety of materials to create a model confidently and successfully - joining materials together.
- Reflect on and evaluate our work

Music:

Performing:

- Performing as an ensemble/band.
- Using chosen instruments (digital, electronic or acoustic), develop the repertoire from previous term in readiness for end of school term concert and transition project.
- Listening to NC suggested music genres and identifying genre from common themes
- Develop singing repertoire in readiness for performance.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are Swimming and Rounders

Swimming

Developing effective swimming skills including coordinated breathing in all strokes, developing water safety and the ability to self-rescue and an understanding of preparation for exercise. Confidently swim a distance of at least 25m in an easily recognisable stroke.

Athletics

Confidently throw a shot put and javelin. Use a step action to increase distance. Add a run-up to the long jump and triple jump and jump with power. Select and apply running speeds to be used within a competitive environment and perform the relay with a baton using the down sweep technique.

Copy, repeat and evaluate simple athletic skills showing control and co-ordination. Recognise how personal health and wellbeing is promoted through participation in athletic activities. Observe and evaluate a partner's athletic actions.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Drug Education'

- To know the different categories of drugs including medicines, legal, recreational and illegal
- To develop knowledge, understanding and attitudes relating to alcohol, its affects and associated risks and consequences
- To develop knowledge, understanding and attitudes relating to solvents, its affects and associated risks and consequences
- To develop knowledge, understanding and attitudes relating to use and misuse of legal/illegal drugs. Who uses them and why?
- To begin to learn about the law relating to the use/misuse of illegal drugs.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary:

Maths: equivalent, ratio, prime, square, cube, decimal point, improper, proper, mixed number, pattern-spotting, rule, investigate, trial and error, systematic, recognise, justify, reasoning

English:

- First person/3rd person,
- Tenses – progressive, perfect
- Atmosphere
- Mood, subjunctive
- Bias, perspective, viewpoint
- Formal/informal, standard English.
- Direct/indirect speech

Science:

- Voltage
- Amps
- Current
- Insulator
- Conductor
- Bulb
- Circuit – series, parallel
- Battery
- Cell
- Switch