

Year 6 Newsletter

Spring 2

Our topic/theme this half term is: **'I'm a Pupil, Get Me Out of Here!'**

In this topic, we will explore the geography of South America, making contrasts between different countries, and looking at the rainforest.

Our Key Texts this half term are *'The Explorer'* by Katherine Rundell and *'The Wonder Garden'*.

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, as well as focusing on the following objectives:

Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes (eg for research).

Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction.

Drawing inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.

Distinguish between statements of fact and opinion.

Writing:

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

Plan his/her writing by noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary.

Draft and write by selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning.

Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of his/her own, and others' writing, with reasoning.

Proof-read for punctuation errors, including use of semi-colons, colons, dashes, punctuation in lists, and use of hyphens.

We will be writing traditional tales with a moral, based on 'The Great Kapok Tree'. We will focus on using these specific skills:

Building settings through descriptive devices.

Continue to develop our sentence structure (ie using semi-colon lists)

Communicate a character's thoughts through their actions

We will be writing biased arguments, focused on the following skills:

Use persuasive openers to make writing sound trustworthy

Use carefully chosen emotive language.

Present information using the passive voice.

Use parentheses and subordinating conjunctions to develop sentences.

In grammar, we will be learning about the subjunctive voice, ambitious punctuation such as colons, the active and passive voice as well as revisiting previous parts of the grammar curriculum such as tenses and pronouns.

Our Maths learning this half term:

Measure

Recognise that shapes with the same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa.

Calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles.

Calculate, estimate and compare volume of cubes and cuboids using standard units, including centimetre cubed (cm³) and cubic metres (m³) and extending to other units, such as mm³ and km³.

Algebra

Express missing number problems algebraically.

Use simple formulae expressed in words.

Generate and describe linear number sequences.

Find pairs of numbers that satisfy number sentences involving two unknowns.

Enumerate all possibilities of combinations of two variables.

Statistics

Interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs and use these to solve problems.

Calculate and interpret the mean as an average.

We will be reviewing our previous learning throughout this half term, regularly practising our arithmetic skills at speed, and developing our ability to reason mathematically across all the content areas we have covered.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science

In Science this half term, we will learning about the classification of living things.

We will focus on these areas of knowledge:

Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals

Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

Identify and classify using keys

Consider how scientific ideas have developed over time.

Use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify ideas.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term is focused on using spreadsheets and organising data:

I can explain what a spreadsheet is and how it can be used to organise data.

I can use a formula in my spreadsheet.

I can use my spreadsheet to create a graph or chart.

I can format my data so it is clear and easy to use.

I can use software to create work for a given task.

I can use a computer to collect data.

I can use a computer to analyse data to show something useful.

Our digital literacy unit will be looking at cyber-bulling and learning strategies for handling these situations when they arise.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

History:

Our history focus this half term will be the Mayan civilisation (a non-European society with contrasts with British history.)

We will also develop our skills devising historically valid questions, explore change, similarity and difference and note connections, contrasts and trends over time. We will consider the following questions:

- How do sources inform us about the Mayans?
- How did the Mayans write and what numbers did they use?
- How were Mayan cities different to British cities?
- What was different and similar about life in the Mayan times?
- Why did the Mayan Empire decline?

RE:

We will be learning about Buddhism and exploring what it means to be a Buddhist. We will understand the origins of Buddhism, the dharma wheel and the eightfold path. We will also learn about Buddhist worship and explore the four noble truths.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be learning about different Spanish speaking countries and exploring some important festivities in Spain, including Easter.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art

In this topic, pupils will explore how artists can explore and represent their identity through Art. The children will work towards creating a layered portrait expressing different aspects of their personality.

We will develop the following skills:

- Use a sketchbook to collect and record visual information from different sources. This includes recording thoughts, testing ideas and reflecting.
- Use line, shape, colour, texture and meaning to explore aspects of our identity.
- Use layers to create complex imagery.
- Share work with others, articulating how we feel about the journey and outcome. Listening to feedback from classmates and responding.

Music:

Listening

Practising and performing skills in an ensemble and independently using chords and melodies from notation

Using notation/ tab, learn well known songs on the chosen instrument

Learn to play several parts to a piece of music and perform alongside peers

Some singing where appropriate.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE:

Our PE units this half term are **Gymnastics and Kwik Cricket**.

Gymnastics – Counterbalance

Learn counter-balance and counter tension balances. Perform movement phrases, linking counter-balance and tension into a routine with a variety of travel movements and jumps. Include levels and use of apparatus.

Use keywords to evaluate own and others work and suggest ways to improve.

Kwik Cricket

Play the game of Kwik Cricket. Develop bowling (push bowl and overarm bowl) batting (forward drive/sideways) and fielding skills. Introduce the scoring system and be confident in all areas of the games.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is **'Relationships and Sex Education'**

Describe the main stages of sexual reproduction, using some scientific vocabulary.

Describe some emotions associated with the onset of puberty and have strategies to deal with these positively.

Understand that puberty affects people in different ways, both physically and emotionally.

Understand that the way they behave affects others and that they have some responsibility to others to make sure they are not hurt.

Describe some characteristics of loving, trusting relationships.

Understand a few reasons a couple might choose to have children

Show awareness of some family arrangements which are different from their own.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary:

Maths

Area, perimeter, volume, yard, inch, foot, feet, miles, kilometres, perimeter, circumference, square centimetre/metre, tonne, pound, ounce, cubic centimetre/metre/millilitres, analogue, digital, 12-hour, 24-hour, time elapsed, duration, formula, formulae, proof, linear, unknown, variable, inverse, balance, equation, data, mean, average, pie chart, line chart, pictogram, statistical, distribution, maximum/minimum.

English

Biased, argument, claim, evidence, support, counter-argument, reference, conjunction, contrasting, opener, subjunctive voice, colons, active voice, passive voice, synonym, antonym, subject, object, parenthesis, cohesion.

Science

Classification, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species, Linnaeus, organism, micro-organism, characteristics, opinion, similarities/differences, observations, support, refute.