

# Year 6 Newsletter

## Spring 1

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 focusing on the following objectives:

- Increase our familiarity with a wide range of books, including from our literary heritage and books from other cultures and traditions.
- Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction.
- Identify and discuss themes and conventions in and across a wide range of writing. (e.g. events, structures, issues, characters)
- Drawing inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.
- Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning.

### Writing:

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

- Plan his/her writing of narratives through reasoned consideration of how authors have developed characters and settings in what the class have read, listened to or seen
- Draft and write by linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections and ellipsis.
- Proof-read for punctuation errors, including use of semi-colons, colons, dashes, punctuation of bullet points in lists, and use of hyphens.

We will be writing dramatic events, based on an extract from *'The Explorer'*. We will focus on developing our setting descriptions using these specific skills:

- Personifying the setting.
- Making our characters aware of something ominous and show their thinking.
- Using varied sentence length to build suspense and surprise the reader.

We will be writing information texts, focused on the following topic-specific skills:

- Use a range of descriptive devices to draw the reader in.
- Use generalisers and linking phrases to create flow.
- Use precise, technical vocabulary.
- Include relative clauses and parentheses to add extra information.

In grammar, we will be revising key areas of the earlier grammar curriculum – exclamations, statements, commands and questions, apostrophes for possession and contraction, different clauses and semi-colons.

## Our Maths learning this half term:

### Geometry – Properties of Shape

- Draw 2-D shapes using given dimensions and angles.
- Recognise, describe and build simple 3-D shapes, including making nets.
- Compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and find unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.
- Illustrate and name parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and know that the diameter is twice the radius.
- Recognise angles where they meet at a point, are on a straight line, or are vertically opposite, and find missing angles.

### Geometry – Position and Direction

- Describe positions on the full coordinates grid (all four quadrants).
- Draw and translate simple shapes on the coordinates plane, and reflect them in the axes.

### Ratio and Proportion

- Solve problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities, where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts.
- Solve problems involving similar shapes, where the scale factor is known or can be found.
- Solve problems involving unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples.

### Measure

- Solve problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure, using decimal notation to three decimal places where appropriate.
- Use, read, write and convert between standard units, converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa, using decimal notation to up to three decimal places.
- Convert between miles and kilometres.
- Recognise imperial measurements.

## Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

### Science

**In Science this half term, we will learning about evolution and inheritance.**

**We will focus on these areas of knowledge:**

- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

**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 the concept of variables in programming.**

- I know what a variable is.
- I know what debugging is.
- I can design a program on paper.
- I can split a problem into smaller parts.

## Our Humanities learning this half term:

### Geography:

Our geography focus this half term will be South America and we will use maps to focus on this area, concentrating on different environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

We will also develop our comparative skills by exploring geographical similarities and differences through exploring different countries in South America.

- Use maps to make connections between countries and continents.
- Compare countries in South America
- Explore deforestation and its local and global impact.
- Understand the importance of conservation.
- Present our own geographical findings.

### RE:

**We will be learning about themes across different religions and belief systems including atheism and humanism. We will identify and consider the diversity of belief systems, both nationally and globally.**

### Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will continue to revise our prior learning and will then be exploring vocabulary related to our towns and direction words.

## Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

### Art:

**In this topic, which focuses on the rainforests of Central and South America, the children study a range of South American artists including Torres Garcia and Beatriz Milhaszres. The works the children study all include geometric shapes; the children mimic these artists and consider different meanings of different elements of the pieces to create their own compositions.**

**We will look at self-portraits by Frida Kahlo and use the self-portraits with monkeys to guide making clay monkeys.**

**We will develop the following skills:**

- Use a sketchbook to collect and record visual information from different sources.
- Use a sketchbook to plan how to join parts of a sculpture and annotate work.
- Use different techniques for different purposes i.e. shading, hatching within their own work.
- Develop different skills working with clay.
- Mix colour, shades and tones with confidence, building on previous knowledge.
- Understand which works well in their work and why.

### Music:

#### **Performing**

- Learning to perform as an ensemble while exploring timbre and texture of everyday sound.
- Enjoy making, playing, changing and combining sounds.
- Experiment with different ways of producing sounds with voice, musical instruments and simple every day sounds.

## Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

### PE:

**Our PE units this half term are Dance and Netball.**

#### **Dance**

To select and link movements together to create movement phrases. Apply choreographic devices of canon, unison, action/reaction, speed, direction, order and levels to develop motifs. Describe performances using dance terminology.

#### **Netball**

Progress ball handling skills by learning the game of netball. Use control and accuracy within the competitive game situation. Children will apply their attacking and defending strategies into small-sided competitive games.

### PSHE:

**Our first unit this half term is 'Working Together'.**

- Identify their own strengths and skills, those of others and know how these can complement each other.
- Talk about skills they would like to develop and hopes for the future.
- Understand that the ability to learn is a valuable skill.
- Know some skills which might be useful in a range of jobs.
- Communicate effectively, using listening, negotiation, debating and chairing skills.
- Recognise influences on their decision making, including the media.
- Use evaluation and feedback to inform future work.

## Key Vocabulary

### Key Vocabulary:

#### Maths

Geometric, regular, irregular, metres, kilometres, centimetres, millimetres, grams, milligrams, kilograms, inch, mile, pint, radius, diameter, circumference, concentric, arc, net, intersecting, perpendicular, parallel, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium, kite, acute/obtuse/reflex angles, quadrants, translation, reflection, missing angles, vertically opposite.

Ratio, proportion, in every, for every, relative, scale, scale factor

#### English

Exclamations, statements, commands, questions, apostrophes, possession, contraction, clause, independent, dependent, main, subordinate, subordination, co-ordination, semi-colon, parentheses.

#### Science

Evolution, inheritance, animal adaptation, plant adaptation, Darwin, Wallace, characteristic, reproduction, genes, DNA, genetics, survival, environmental