

# 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 (cm<sup>3</sup>) and cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) and extending to other units, such as mm<sup>3</sup> and km<sup>3</sup>.

### 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 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-bullying 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 how and why religions help the poor (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 different Spanish speaking countries and exploring some important festivities in Spain, including Easter.

## Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

**DT:** In this topic, we will be making a range of different products linked to the Mayan civilisation such as dream catchers, Candombe drums and Mayan masks.

### **We will develop the following skills:**

- Select from and use a wide range of materials and components according to functional properties.
- Investigate and analyse a range of products.
- Evaluate ideas and products against our own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve our work.

### **Music:**

#### **Listening**

- Reading score and playing on a piano.
- Listening to the great composers.
- Learning to read and play notes with expression.
- Developing the use of arpeggios on a piano.
- Recording music and layering texture.

## 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’**

- Know about the facts of the human life cycle, including sexual intercourse.
- Be able to recognise changing emotions with friends and family and be able to express their feelings and concerns positively.
- Consider how they have some responsibility for the feelings and wellbeing of others.
- Consider the need for trust and love in marriage and established relationships.
- To have a basic awareness of responsible parenting choices.
- Understand and respect a wide range of family arrangements e.g. second marriages, fostering, same sex partners and extended families.
- Understand what we have learned and be able to share it with others.

## 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.