

Year 6 Spring Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

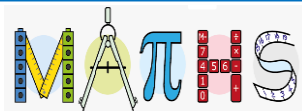
We are proud of the service, leadership and kindness that we see in Year 6. They are terrific role models for our younger pupils. Year 6 Welcome to the Spring Term where we are anticipating a busy time. EdShed for weekly maths and spelling homework continues. We set tasks on Friday to be completed by the following Thursday at 8pm. Year 6 are very proficient at using Accelerated Reader to quiz the books they have read. The website estimates the number of minutes read.

Twenty or more minutes of reading a day is the aim.

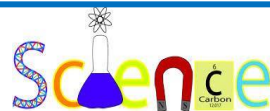
SATs Companion is a very useful website for practising Maths, Punctuation and Grammar. Every child has a login.



We are using the novel *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross McKenzie as a starting point for writing a short story. This prize-winning magical adventure moves through time and shifts to cities around the globe. Then we will read some short stories from Phillip Pullman's *Grimm Tales* and create our own Fairy Story with a Twist. Pullman, a national treasure, has retold these timeless tales in his unique and brilliant voice. Our next novel will be *The Queen's Fool* by Ally Sherrick; it is a rip-roaring historical adventure. We will be inspired by this Tudor tale to develop our writing skills with a recount diary and a formal letter. Each Friday we are completing a spelling dictation test using the word list from EdShed that has just been practised for homework. We will continue to spend a few minutes in every English lesson practising joined handwriting.



This term the focus is on decimals and percentages. Year 6 will work on numbers to 3 decimal places. We will discover the links between decimals, percentages and fractions. In measurement we will learn about the area, perimeter and volume of shapes. We will explore statistics and work on line graphs, mean and reading and interpreting pie charts. The emphasis in all our maths will be reasoning, making connections and explaining when we tackle problems.



During the Spring term, we will be studying the topic of *Animals Including Humans* in which we will look at the human circulatory system. This will be complemented by a trip to the Centre for Life in Newcastle. We will investigate the effects of exercise on the heart rate and collect and analyse data. We will use this data to create graphs and draw conclusions, suggesting how we might improve results to ensure validity and reliability. Later on, in the term, we will be exploring the topic of *Evolution and Inheritance*. We will research and explain how some animals have adapted and evolved according to the environment in which they live and the availability of their food sources.

This term will begin with a study of Islam and what Muslims believe about following God. This will be followed by the topic 'Salvation', focusing on the question, 'What difference does the Resurrection make to Christians?'



This term, we are beginning our study of the First World War. Our work in lessons will aim to answer the question: Was World War I really so 'great'? This unit allows the children to study an aspect of British history that profoundly affected the lives of people around the world. We will consider the chronology of the war and complete in-depth studies of trench life and the technological advancements that occurred during this time. This will be largely achieved through the study of historical sources and artefacts.



Year 6 will learn about our ever changing and dynamic **coasts**. Pupils will consider the role of erosion and deposition in forming coastal features. The children will explore the reasons coasts are attractive for people to live and visit. We will study plastic pollution in the ocean habitat and consider its impact on the planet.



This term we will continue our drumming lessons with Mr Abbott. We are really enjoying the rhythms and techniques we have been learning about!



It's been great to see the build-up of skills over a number of years in the Y6's coding. This term, they'll complete games of their own design, programming, debugging and coding all of the elements themselves. I'm excited to see how the children tackle this task - and to play their games at the end!



This term we will continue to explore Cubism in different ways, including experimenting with still life drawing. After half term, we will work towards creating a clay sculpture inspired by the artist Giacometti.



This term we are designing, making and evaluating a pop-up card. These cards will be inspired by the artist Joan Miro.



This term the children will be working with partners and using apparatus to create and perform a gymnastics sequence with a focus on matching and mirroring. Later in the term, they will refine their badminton skills. They will learn both forehand and backhand shots before considering how to apply their skills to outwit an opponent.

French

We are excited to be using our new programme LanguageNut to support our French curriculum. The children are able to access this from home if they so wish. This term we will be developing vocabulary to do with where we live and giving directions.



We will complete two further puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw Curriculum this Spring term. The first being 'Dreams and Goals'. In this Puzzle, the children share their own strengths and further stretch themselves by setting challenging and realistic goals. They discuss the learning steps they will need to take as well as talking about how to stay motivated. The children reflect on various global issues and explore places where people may be suffering or living in difficult situations; whilst doing this, they reflect on their own emotions linked to this learning. The children also discover what they think their classmates like and admire about them, as well as working on giving others praise and compliments.

Another piece that we will look at is 'Healthy Me'. In this Puzzle, the children discuss taking responsibility for their own physical and emotional health and the choices linked to this. They learn about different types of drugs and the effects these can have on people's bodies. The children learn about exploitation as well as gang culture and the associated risks therein. They also learn about mental health/illness and that people have different attitudes towards this. They learn to recognise the triggers for and feelings of being stressed and that there are strategies they can use when they are feeling stressed.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 6 team.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lake, Mr Winn and Mrs Corbin