

Year 6 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

Welcome to the Autumn Term. We have made a very good start and hear lots of compliments already about Year 6 around school. The positive benefit of the Residential Trip can also already be seen.

Homework tasks are planned to support the work done in class. Please ensure your child's homework is always completed. Every week Year 6 will have:

- EdShed Spelling List - play at least 4 games
- EdShed Maths task - play at least 4 games
- Read 20 minutes a day - estimated on Accelerated Reader - quizzes can be completed in school

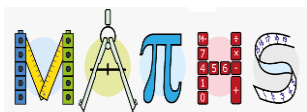
Tasks are assigned on Friday and need to be completed by the following Thursday at 8:00 pm to be ready for our Friday Spelling Test. Five green Dojo points are given for completed homework.

Mrs Lake, Mr Winn and Mrs Corbin

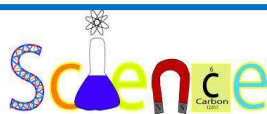


This term, we are reading the award winning *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, which is based on a moving true story full of humour and warmth. Inspired by this novel, the children will be writing a non-chronological report about Mongolia. We will use a short thought-provoking film about the true story of the *Three Little Pigs* to create a newspaper report. We are using the fantasy novel *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross MacKenzie to develop the children's imaginative ideas for a descriptive setting.

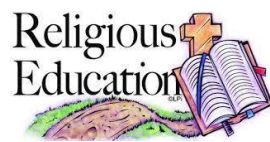
Spelling and joined handwriting are a school wide focus this term.



Our focus this term will begin with place value using numbers up to 10,000,000. We will be using the four operations including long multiplication and long division for problem solving. We will then move onto adding, subtracting, multiplying fractions and dividing them by an integer. Finally, we will work on converting metric measures and solving calculations involving length, capacity and mass. We begin each lesson with a short fluency task to brush up on multiplication tables.



In the first half term, we will be studying light and how we see things. We will learn how our eyes work and investigate filters to help us to understand how we are able to see different colours. We will find out how refraction can play tricks on our eyes by changing the direction of light rays. After studying how mirrors reflect light, we will use them to plan and construct a mirror maze. Following that, we will be studying electricity and investigating how different components affect the current through circuits. We will conclude this topic with a design project involving using their knowledge of electrical conductors and components to construct an automatic switch.



As a school we are looking at the Big Story of the bible. In Year 6 we will begin by focusing on the question, 'How do religions help people live through good times and bad times?' Next, we will study pilgrimage and explore the question, 'Why is pilgrimage important to some religious believers?' The rest of the term will centre around the topic of 'People of God' and the key question, 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?'



In history this term, we will be answering the question, 'Can we choose the UK's most important monarch?'. We will begin considering the chronology of various time periods within British and world history, before looking in depth at the reign of some of our most influential monarchs such as Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Elizabeth I, Henry VIII and Elizabeth II. By unravelling the successes (and some of the failures) of each leader, we will decide who deserves the title of our 'Most Important Monarch'.



The World

Pupils will name and locate some of the countries of the world. We will look at the world's climate zones and explore how location affects climate. We will focus on Australia where pupils will learn about the increasing incidences of bushfires. The children will learn about the global issues of trade, food production and energy supply.



The children will commence their Music lessons this term and be taught by a specialist teacher from the Durham Music Service. They will enjoy a variety of singing, listening, composing and performing activities to support their musical education, beginning with African Drumming.



This year, we'll be building on our coding skills from last year to create a game in a style of our own choice. This term will be focused on researching games, improving skills we'll need and designing our games, with a view to start making them after the Christmas break.



This term in Art we are exploring the movement of Cubism and using this to create a digital self-portrait inspired by the style.



This term we will be working on food and nutrition in DT. We will begin by exploring the terms of seasonality and sustainability and considering why it is important for the environment to make seasonal choices with food. We will then develop our knowledge into a design, make and evaluate project with a focus on creating seasonal cakes with persuasive advertising campaigns and packaging to support them. We will finish by presenting our work in a 'Blue Coat Bake Off' event.



We have started the term learning about invasion games which allows the children to build on their previous learning. After half term the children will complete a unit of dance where they will explore moving in time with others.



In the Autumn Term, we will begin with our first Jigsaw puzzle piece: Being Me in My World. During these sessions, we will focus on our hopes and dreams for the year ahead, our rights and responsibilities as a global citizen, and developing our understanding of how an individual's behaviour can impact positively or negatively on a group. Following this, we will move on to our second puzzle piece: Celebrating Difference. This will give us the opportunity to consider what makes people unique and celebrate individuality. We will also look at the impact that stereotypes and a lack of equality can have on individuals, as well as how to recognise bullying and develop strategies for dealing with it. Throughout the year, the children will be encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills during Circle Time activities by contributing towards discussions when they feel happy and comfortable to do so.

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