



Year 6 Deer Class Newsletter

Term 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to Term 3. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas with a chance to see family and friends, as well as squeezing in some time to rest too! Thank you for the generous gifts and cards we received at the end of last term. These are never expected but always hugely appreciated. Thank you so much!

So, a new term brings lots of interesting new topics for the children to get stuck into. I know they have really enjoyed our World War 2 topic and immersed themselves into that learning. Our school trip was particularly successful and I don't think I've ever seen such excitement on a school trip! We start on another busy term ahead with a vast curriculum to work through. Our staff arrangements remain the same this term: I will teach all week, with the exception of Wednesday, when Mrs Fulton will lead the class, with Mrs Douglas as our full-time TA.

Can I just remind you of Mrs Fulton's allergy to oranges and cheese, and request that you avoid sending any in your child's packed lunch on a Wednesday or sporting events as the consequences can be severe for her. Many thanks.

Curriculum Overview

With the aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Year 6 this term.

In **literacy**, we will work on narrative writing using fairy tales, during which the children will explore the common themes and features of the genre and retell familiar stories in their own words. They will develop the language, structure and style of these narratives and go on to write their own by adapting fairy tales they know well. We will later look at fables and will finish the term with some work on poetry. There will also be a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within all writing in literacy lessons, as well as additional spelling and grammar sessions throughout the week. All children will be encouraged to read regularly, and there will be guided reading sessions four times a week to develop a range of reading skills.

Our **maths** this term will include topics such as reflection and translation on a co-ordinate grid; angles in triangles, quadrilaterals and regular polygons; problems involving fractions, decimals and percentages; and order of operations in calculation work. We will also find areas and perimeters of 2D shapes and calculate the volume of cubes and cuboids. There will be a strong focus on building quick mental arithmetic skills, as well as developing reasoning and problem solving across different areas of maths.

Our whole school approach to **science** is to study many areas of the science curriculum in short bursts, so that topics can be revisited throughout the year, enabling children to continually build on previous learning. This term, **Mrs Fulton** will explore topics such as reversible changes in materials; human growth, health and fitness; sound; and electrical circuits.

Following our detailed history topic on WW2, we now move to a **geographical** unit exploring biomes and climate zones of the world. The children will find out about the key features of major biomes, such as deserts, forests, grasslands and tundra, and investigate the varied climates, weather, plant life and animal life in different zones across the world. The topic will allow for map work as well as a variety of factual research.

In **music** this term, the children will complete work around well-known movie soundtracks and the famous composers who created them. They will consider the impact of music used to accompany visuals in particular films and they will research to find out about famous movie soundtrack composers, such as John Williams.

In **RE** we will explore the overarching question: 'Is it better to express your beliefs in art and architecture or in charity and generosity?' The topic looks at the way that Christians, Muslims and non-religious groups express their religious beliefs through their sacred buildings and at how religious charities support others as an aspect of their faith. The nature of the RE curriculum allows the children many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions and reflect on their own beliefs in relation to religion.

Our **PSHE** unit, entitled 'How can the media influence people?' explores issues involved with the media, including social media, and the positive and harmful effects it can have on our opinions, beliefs and behaviour. We will look at issues such as fake news, reliability of things we see online, photo shopped images, internet safety, and the effect of the media on our wellbeing. I strongly believe that this is a highly relevant, current and important subject to be teaching in the growing climate of social media that surrounds young people, and I'm sure the children will engage in some thought-provoking discussions this term.

Thank you for all your support with previous social media issues within the class. Open discussions and transparency are key; ensuring no one is left feeling withdrawn or isolated through the use of mobile apps.

In **computing** this term, the children will find out about animation, how animated films are made and have a go at making some of their own animations using the programme Zu3D.

In **art & DT**, we will be looking at the story of the Willow Pattern and start the term by working on close observational drawing and sketching from parts of the story. The children will then work on colour mixing and painting in blue shades and tones and eventually paint patterns, scenes and plates related to the story.

Our **PE** this term will focus on basketball and large apparatus skills. In basketball, we will be practising and developing skills and tactics, then using and applying these skills in game situations within lessons. Whilst in large apparatus, the children will learn how to work as a team, putting gymnastic skills into use on the apparatus. PE lessons will be taught on a **Wednesday morning with Mrs Fulton and Thursday afternoon with Mrs Berry**, and your child can wear their PE kit into school on these days. If your child wears earrings, please ensure they are either removed or covered on PE days and that any long hair is tied back.

Having choreographed our Wake and Shake routine last term, the sports partnership competition has now been postponed to later in the year. Look out for further information about this in due course.

French this term, we will continue to work on learning and practising conversational French and some basic vocabulary that will enable the children to have simple conversations with one another. The focus will be on using the conversational phrases and vocabulary verbally.

Home learning

The focus of home learning continues to be reading, spellings and times tables. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible at home, choosing books they are interested in, as this really helps to build their stamina and enjoyment of reading. Try asking questions if you read with them, or after they have read, to encourage their retrieval and inference skills (ideas drawn from evidence in the text) eg. The text says the trees swayed and leaves fell in the breeze. What season is this and how do you know? We could say it was Autumn as the leaves are falling from the trees. It is a breeze as opposed to windy which lends itself to Autumn rather than Winter.

Spellings: Your child will continue to bring home a list of spellings every Thursday to learn, which will be tested the following Tuesday. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them, and the words should generally be familiar, as they will link to the work we have been doing in spelling sessions at school. It is very important that the children work hard to learn their list of words, as the spellings they are expected to use in their writing become increasingly challenging.

Times Tables: The children should be regularly practising times tables at home to support their learning in all different areas of maths. If your child is already confident in recalling their times tables, it is a good idea for them to challenge themselves to speed up their instant recall and beat their own time. We have started the Times Table mission path challenge and several children have earned housepoints with a few choosing from the 'treasure box' by showing they can recall specific times tables. More children need to rise to this challenge and work through the tables which they will then be able to apply to Maths lessons this term with our work on fractions.

Assignments will be set on Maths Shed every Thursday to support children with rapid recall of times tables and other areas of mental arithmetic and there is an expectation that these tasks are completed by the following Tuesday morning. Well done to all those children who have increased their scores over the last term; this will help you with your work this coming term on percentages and decimals.

If your child wishes to do additional work at home, any research around our geography topic on biomes and climate zones would support their learning at school, or they might dip into any other curriculum areas, such as movie soundtracks and animation. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class. Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning.



Our Class Targets

Across the school, we are working hard to develop all children's independence by setting small targets for the children to work on. With this in mind, the targets for Year Six this term are:

- To take more responsibility for their own and their table's equipment in class.
 - To try hard to access the assignments on Maths Shed every week.
- To read more regularly at home (and try to apply language to own written work.)

Dates for your diary:

Friday 9th January : Multicultural Day with Year 5 on China.

w/c 3rd February: Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 4th February: Young Voices Concert at the O2 (for pupils attending the Young Voices Club)

Monday 10th February: Visit from Local Child Centred Policing Team (Part of Safer Internet Day)

Friday 14th February: End of Term 3

Monday 24th February: INSET Day for staff (no children)

Tuesday 25th February: Start of Term 4 for children

I hope that this will be another happy, exciting and rewarding term for your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground or contact me via the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Berry

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