

Dear Parents,

YEAR 6 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM

Happy New Year to you all!

We would like to say a big thank you for your generous gifts and cards at Christmas. The end of term was made extra special by the effort and commitment the children gave to their performances of 'A Christmas Carol' and the Christingle service. This term is going to be a busy one for the children with an increased focus on familiarising children with the tests that they will do in May. We aim for the children to feel prepared and confident to achieve their best without worries. Please remember that our door is always open with any concerns you may want to share or questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you on **Monday 22nd of January** at our KS2 SATs Information Evening (6pm in the school hall), when we will tell you, in more detail, the nature of the tests with regards to the format and expectations. We will be discussing the progress that the children make with you at parent's evenings in March.

Subject Overviews

English

Our story-writing theme for this term is called 'Into the Woods'. The children will be learning about the origins of fairy tales and the elements that make a good fairy tale. To inspire the writing of their stories, we will be watching the Disney film 'Into the Woods'. In reading and writing we will be looking at settings, character, plot development and speech; using our imaginations to write a new modern tale using known stories. After half-term, we will be looking at the work of William Shakespeare and our writing will be focused on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This term we will be starting our Key Stage 2 Grammar and Spelling revision programme, consolidating all of their skills, ready for assessment in May.

Mathematics

For the first half-term, we will be covering key skills within these topic areas: Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Measurement, including Area and Perimeter. After half-term, we will be looking at Algebra, Ratio, Geometry and Statistics.

It is essential that the children continue to secure their times tables facts. There are still many children who are struggling with this and it hinders their calculation speed and confidence in lessons. We will be setting some tournaments on TTRockstars, and recommend that the children go on regularly to improve their speed and accuracy.

Mathletics tasks will be set each week to reinforce the learning in the classroom. We ask that the children challenge themselves on Mathletics- we expect a minimum time of 30 minutes.

Science

We are beginning the term studying 'Light' before moving onto 'Electricity'. The children will continue to develop their investigative skills and will be encouraged to develop their scientific language and understanding.

Computing

This half term the children will use maths knowledge and previous programming knowledge to create blocks of code to make algorithms, which cause an object to change, and in so doing, will design a working analogue clock, a digital clock and a countdown timer.

Humanities

In History, we will be studying and researching some key events of WWII that will include Evacuation, D-Day and the Holocaust. Our Geography lessons will focus on Population of the world and the issues around providing enough resources for a growing population. In RE, we will be learning about Humanism, specifically the beliefs centered around 'The Big Bang' theory.

Health & Well-being

Children will have weekly lessons involving lots of discussion and collaboration. This term the topics are: Valuing Difference, Keeping Safe and Rights and Respect. We will be focusing on respecting differences, tolerance and understanding, challenging stereotypes, keeping safe online and safe and unsafe drugs.

PE

We now have two PE sessions, one on Monday and one on Wednesday. In PE lessons, we will be developing team game skills such as bench ball and volleyball, before switching to throwing tennis once the weather warms a little. We try to take the children outside as much as possible for lessons so please ensure that they have an extra jumper or tracksuit in their bag.

Art

In Art, children will be studying examples of architecture from Japanese peace pagodas to The Shard. We will also be studying the architectural features and buildings designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, including the towers of Westminster Cathedral. We will then be moving onto experimenting with perspective using a variety of paint mediums to create their own artwork.

Performing Arts/Music

Our Drama sessions will be 'blocked' for part of this term to allow the Shakespeare group to prepare for their performance of Macbeth in February. The other group will continue to develop their performance skills in their drama lessons. Music will continue to work on the key elements of the curriculum, including some composition.

French

In French this term, we will be learning about different sports and how to give your opinions. We then move onto saying what sports you do in different kinds of weather and the clothes you will need for them.

Key Dates

Please refer to the website via the following link:

<https://www.nicholashawksmooracademy.com/events/>

Homework

Daily Reading: Please encourage your child to read as much as possible either independently or with an adult, for a minimum of 30 minutes daily. Reading fluently 'age appropriate' texts will ensure that they are ready for future learning.

Mathletics: Children will need to complete a minimum of 30 minutes each week. It is important the children complete their 'to do' list first before selecting areas of mathematics that they feel they need to work on. This encourages them to be reflective on concepts they may find tricky or concepts they wish to find out more about.

Times Table Rockstars: It is important the children complete regular practice of their times tables throughout the week.

Reading Comprehension: Reading Comprehension will be set every Tuesday by Mrs Gilchrist. This will be due in on a Monday. This is in preparation for SATs after the Easter holidays.

Class Pledges

Our Class Pledges are still in progress. It has been fantastic to see the children's Black History Projects about an influential person before Christmas. We will be continuing to work towards:

- To increase the natural wildlife around school.
- To create a piece of art in the community.

We look forward to working together to make this term a success.

Please email our school office to discuss any concerns you may have or to clarify anything you are uncertain of. We will endeavour to get back to you swiftly. We do not use Class Dojo for messaging.

The children always work hard and we know they will continue to do so in an important term they have ahead of them; we are incredibly proud of their commitment to their learning inside and outside of school.

Best wishes,

Year 6 Team



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