



Year 6 Deer Class Newsletter

Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, which I have no doubt will be very busy in the run up to Christmas. I hope you and the children have enjoyed a restful half term, especially after such a busy start to the school year. We packed in so many different things last term and I know it has been an important time for visiting secondary schools and making your school choices over the last few weeks. The children coped extremely well with being away from home at Hindleap and with the results from the Kent Test; I hope that this term will feel a little more settled, so they can concentrate on fully embracing this term's curriculum and learning.

I wanted to mention something which was highlighted to me by several parents at the end of last term; the use of WhatsApp by the children after school hours. Whilst the internet can be a positive part of our lives, there are times when its overuse or poor use can lead to consequences that upset the children. It appears comments are being made online that wouldn't normally be made face-to-face under the banner of "roasting" and "banter". I have been talking about social networking sites, including Whatsapp, and their appropriate use and would appreciate your support with this matter for the benefit of the children's wellbeing.

Our staff arrangements will remain the same this term: I will be teaching in Year 6 for the whole week, with the exception of Wednesday mornings, when Mrs Fulton will continue to teach PE and Science. This term sees the continuation of the Wake and Shake routine being choreographed - something they always seem to enjoy and put their energy into! Mrs Douglas will be our full time TA. We will continue to work on the development of the children's independence, social and personal skills, and celebrating all that they do.

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 be working on a text called 'Sam's Spitfire Summer', which is a story of a young boy who was evacuated to Kent during the Second World War. The children will use the story as a stimulus for writing, such as writing letters in role, newspaper reports, and instructions on building an Anderson Shelter. They will explore and write their own war-themed poetry and we will finish the term by studying a picture book called Rose Blanche. This book tells the story of a young German girl during the war who discovers a Jewish camp. It is a highly emotive text, and I anticipate some fantastic discussions and written outcomes from the children. 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 days a week to develop a wide range of reading skills.

Our **maths** this term will include topics such as conversion of measures; long and short multiplication and division; simplifying, ordering and comparing fractions; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions; and measuring and calculating angles. 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, we will explore topics such as light; Earth, the sun and the seasons; magnets and magnetic poles; electrical circuits; forces; and experimenting with materials.

Our **history** topic on 'World War Two' continues this term, starting with lessons about the Blitz and moving onto aspects of social history, as we delve into the lives of ordinary people living during the war. The children will learn about life on the home front, such as the role of women, the experiences for children and the lives of civilians in relation to rationing,

'Dig for Victory' and 'Make Do and Mend' initiatives. There will be many opportunities for cross-curricular writing, as well as making links with art and DT.

In **music** this term, the children will complete project-based work, studying a famous British band, starting with The Beatles. They will research to find out about the band's music and their influence in the music industry over time.

In **RE** we will continue to work on the overarching question: 'What matters most to Christians and Humanists?' This term we look at the importance of Christian and non-religious values and morals. We will be having an auction within the class to bid for values and will discuss what makes a value more popular? We will then be looking at the difference between peacekeepers and peacemakers in the World. 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 we keep healthy as we grow?' continues this term. Last term we explored aspects of healthy living, such as exercise and a balanced diet, and we will now focus more on ways to support positive mental health, such as limiting screen time, getting enough sleep, sharing worries with people around you and so on. We will also complete work on the risks associated with legal harmful substances, such as alcohol, nicotine, medicines and caffeine.

In **computing** this term, the children will learn about the reality of the World Wide Web, exploring ideas about bias, plagiarism and the validity of information we find on the internet. They will find out about ways to research, use search engines themselves to research on a theme, and consider how to ensure that the information they find is accurate and reliable.

Our **DT** project is linked to 'Make do and Mend', which is part of our learning in history about life on the home front in WWII. Every child will design and make a tote bag from recycled fabrics, using hand-sewing techniques to make their bags. In order to complete the project, all children will need to bring in some form of old fabric, preferably a pillowcase, which they will use to make their own bag. Please check your airing cupboards and send any old pillowcases, suitable for transformation, with your child's name attached. I will keep them in my cupboard until needed.

Our **PE** this term will focus on creating and performing a Wake and Shake routine, as well as practising netball skills and playing mini netball matches. PE lessons will be taught on a **Wednesday and Thursday afternoon**, 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.

In **French** this term, we will continue to work on learning and practising conversational French with a focus on school; the unit we are working on is called "Notre École."

Home learning

The focus of home learning continues to be reading, spellings and times tables.

Reading: Reading, and particularly building stamina for reading, is extremely important in Year 6, and I would urge the children to read for at least 15-20 minutes every day, or as often as they possibly can. If you can support and encourage this by sometimes listening to your child read, and recording any comments in their contact books, I would be very grateful. I will award a 'Reader of the Week' certificate every Friday, which celebrates the children's efforts and attitude towards reading.

Spellings: Your child will bring home a list of 10 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. If the children want to do any additional spelling practise, they might choose words from the Year 5&6 word list from the National Curriculum, which can be found here: https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/56/09/5a42eb6a-f57f-4dc4-a66e-bd4c5e27e4b7/SpellingWordList_Y5-6.pdf

Times Tables: The children should be regularly practising times tables at home to support their learning in all different areas of maths. When we complete a times table 'test' at school, I will send these home with the children so that they can identify the times tables that they still need to practise. 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. Assignments will be set on Maths Shed every Thursday to support children with rapid recall and mental arithmetic. Some other useful websites include:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

As discussed with many of you at parents' evening, I will be starting a Times Table mission path for the children to work through in order to learn all of their times tables. They will need to recite the table from 1-12 forwards, then backwards and then answer 8 questions randomly about the table. Upon success, the children will be able to choose a gift from the reward box.

School Trip

On **Tuesday 26th November**, we will be visiting The Ramsgate War Tunnels and The RAF Museum at Manston for a full day of World War II activity. The tunnels give the children first-hand experience of how the people of Ramsgate sheltered during the many bomb attacks during the war. All children will need to bring a packed lunch which we will be eating at the museum before viewing some of the artefacts of war including dioramas of a home and an Anderson shelter that brings classroom learning to life.

Please sign the letter and return to the office as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning.

Dates for your diary:

w/c 18th November: Anti-bullying Week (Odd Socks Day on Monday 11th November)

Tuesday 26th November: Year 6 Trip to Ramsgate Tunnels/ RAF Manston Tour

Friday 6th December: PTFA Christmas Fayre after school

Wednesday 11th December: Family Trust Christmas Show for all children

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Lunch and Day of Joy.

Wednesday 18th December: Years 5 & 6 singing Christmas carols (3pm outside classroom)

Friday 20th December: End of Term 2

Monday 6th January: Start of Term 3 for children - Multicultural Week.

DT Project Requests

As mentioned in my curriculum overview, our DT project this term is inspired by the 'Make Do and Mend' initiative from World War II, which the children will learn about in history. This initiative in WWII urged people to recycle their supplies during the period of harsh rationing, when new clothes and other items were not available. In keeping with this theme, we will be hand-sewing fabric tote bags from recycled materials.

In order to do this, please can I ask that every child brings in some old fabric that you would be happy for them to turn into a bag. An old pillowcase is perfect for this project, but any other bits of fabric that could be used for decorative purposes would also be useful and gratefully received.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please do come and ask me if you have any queries.

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.