



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! May I take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received at the end of last term, which are never expected and always hugely appreciated. Thank you!

Yet again, we embark on another busy term ahead, full of interesting new topics for the children to get stuck into, and a vast curriculum to work through. Our staff arrangements remain the same this term: I will teach all week, with the exception of Thursday mornings, when Mrs Berry will lead the class, with Mrs Douglas as our full-time TA.

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, we 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 have a unit of **geography** 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.

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**, Mrs Berry will be teaching the children 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 key steps gymnastics. In basketball, we will be practising and developing skills and tactics, then using and applying these skills in game situations within lessons. For key steps, the children will work in small groups to plan short gym routines, which they will later perform in a school competition. 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.

Having choreographed our Wake and Shake routine last term, some children will also be attending the sports partnership competition this term. Look out for further information about this in due course.

In **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.

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. 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.

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 equipment in class.
- To try hard to access the assignments on Maths Shed every week.
 - To practise their spellings more regularly at home.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 31st January: Young Voices Concert at the O2 (for pupils attending the Young Voices Club)

w/c 5th February: Well-being Week, including Safer Internet Day

Friday 9th February: End of Term 3

Monday 19th February: INSET Day for staff (no children)

Tuesday 20th 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,

Miss Holmes