



Autumn Term Newsletter – 2020

Year 6

Dear parents, carers and children,

I would like to begin by welcoming you all back to school and into our Y6 class. The children made a fantastic start to the year during their first 3 days. There were lots of happy, smiling faces and their behaviour was exceptional – I have a feeling that they are going to be a shining example for the rest of the school.

Included in this newsletter, is a brief overview of the things that the children will be covering in their different subjects during the first half term, together with some suggestions for how you can support them at home. The children will be taught by us each morning but, in the afternoons, will be visited by our other teachers who will deliver their topic lessons. On a Thursday morning, the class will be taught by Mr McDermott who will teach maths with a particular focus on mental strategies and arithmetic. During this time, he will also be familiarising the children with Google Classrooms (our online learning platform) before rolling this out to the rest of the school. Please could we ask that you help your children to access this at home and inform us if you encounter any problems.

Although we are only days into our new year, please be aware that Applications for Secondary School are now open and that the deadline for applications is 31st October with allocations being announced at the end of March.

It is our pleasure to be able to welcome you back to school and to work closely with you during your child's final year with us.

Yours sincerely, Mrs Woodward and Mrs Julien

Maths: This term we will be learning to:

- Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000 and determine the value of each digit
- Round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy
- Solve number and practical problems that involve all of the above
- Identify the value of each digit in numbers given to three decimal places and multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 giving answers up to three decimal places
- Use, read, write and convert between standard units converting measurements of length, mass and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa, using decimal notation to up to three decimal place

You can support your child by:

- Looking for the use of larger numbers in real life e.g. house prices and asking them to 'read it, write it, round it'
- Practising times tables to ensure rapid recall of all multiplication and division facts to 12x12 then using these to work out related facts e.g. $7 \times 7 = 49$ so $0.7 \times 7 = 4.9$. $70 \times 7 = 490$ etc

Reading: Our book this half term is

Boy – Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl

We will be focussing on:

- Showing an understanding of what we read by giving a summary of the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph
- Discussing and evaluating how authors use figurative language, considering the impact on the reader
- Articulating and justifying arguments and opinions

You can support your child by:

- Hearing them read at home at least 3x each week and returning Reading Records on a Monday only
- Please let us know if you are unable to access Bug Club

Writing: This half term we will be focussing on:

- The features of biographical and auto biographical writing and learning to apply these to our own work
- Writing a letter of complaint in role as Roald Dahl's mother using emotive language and portraying strength of feeling
- Drafting and writing narratives by describing setting characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action

You can support your child by:

- Practising words from the Y5 spelling list (Y6 words will be given out as the children are ready)
- Helping them to access and complete any homework set via Google Classrooms

Religious Education: This half term we will be focussing on:

- The love and care shown between different people
- Unconditional love and how forgiveness is an essential part of this
- That God Never stops loving us

You can support your child by:

- Read the story of 'The Prodigal Son' together or watch <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zsmpvcw>
- As a family, discuss the importance of unconditional love in your lives

French: The theme is **Actions** and this half term we will be focussing on:

- Learning some useful prepositions
- Learning a selection of common verbs and how to use them with some simple adverbs
- Vocabulary associated with craft activities and treasure hunts

You can support your child by:

- Talking to them about their learning in class (French lessons will be with Madame Kibula on Friday afternoons)

History: The theme is the **Local History** and we will be focussing on:

- How healthy were the people of Atherton?
- What was the best and worst of times?
- What can we learn from our past?

You can support your child by:

- Visiting sites around Atherton such as the pit houses at Howe Bridge and the Pretoria Pit memorial at the end of Broadway
- Looking at road names as an indicator of land use from the past
- Looking at maps of the local area from the past, comparing to the present, what has changed? Why might this be?

Computing: The theme is **Coding** and we will be focussing on:

- Using the program design process including flowcharts, to develop algorithms for more complex programs using and understanding abstraction and decomposition to define the important aspects of the program
- Coding, testing and debugging from our designs
- To use functions and tabs in 2Code

You can support your child by:

- Letting them use Purple Mash to practise the skills learned in class at home
- If possible, allowing them to use a laptop or PC to help them develop their keyboard skills

Science: The theme is **Lifestyle Choices** and we will be focussing on:

- Identifying and naming the main parts of the human circulatory system.
- Describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood
- Recognising the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function
- Describing the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to take part in exercise activities e.g. playing games, riding their bike etc.
- Ask them to discuss the effect of exercise on their breathing, heart rate and body temperature.
- Explore different body systems using websites such as <http://kidshealth.org/kid/htbw>

RHSE: This term we will be focussing on:

- Reading the book 'The Thing' by Simon Puttock
- Welcoming differences and standing up to discrimination
- Safe online relationships

You can support your child by:

- Discussing stories in the news which talk about discrimination
- Talking about what they have found out about safe online relationships

PE/Sport: The theme is **Badminton** and we will be focussing on:

- Learning how to serve and some basic shots such as drop shot and smash
- Learning when to use shots in a short rally to their advantage
- To think about the position of play and how to use the space on a badminton court

You can support your child by:

- Encouraging your child to explain what they are learning in P.E and have a go with them if possible
- Watching a Badminton game on the internet

The Arts: The theme is **#selfie** and we will be focussing on:

- Studying a range of portraits and self-portraits, looking at the materials and techniques used
- Developing drawing techniques including using different grades of pencil, proportion and drawing techniques including continuous line portraits
- Creating an Autobiographical Montage which portrays who we are

You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to draw at home – the local bargain shops usually have a plentiful supply of graded pencils and good quality sketch books
- Searching for portraits by artists such as David Hockney, Vincent Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo