



Y6 Spring Term Newsletter

Monday 7th January 2019

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

'Inspiring lives, shaping futures, creating possibilities'

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely and peaceful Christmas break. We continued to be greatly impressed by the children's enthusiasm, determination and resilience last term and we are looking forward to seeing these qualities flourish throughout this busy term.

First of all, we want to congratulate the children on the work they produced last term, embracing the challenges of difficult maths problems, using well-chosen words and phrases to create vivid descriptions and demonstrating skills when using different media in art. We were very impressed with the finished results!

Core Learning Changes

As we move into the new term, we have decided on some bold changes to the way in which we teach reading, writing and maths. We believe these changes will be in the best interests of all children, enabling them all to reach their potential, and also prepare them for life in secondary education since they will be taught by different teachers:

- Mrs Elliott will teach writing to each class;
- Mr Berkshire will teach maths to each class;
- Miss Ogden will teach reading and arithmetic to each class.

There will be three writing and maths sessions respectively, two reading sessions and one arithmetic session per week, ensuring an excellent balance of core learning. The children are already aware of the changes and are very excited by these.

Morning Workshop

We are pleased to announce a weekly morning workshop where parents will be able to come in with their child and complete the morning task set by the class teacher. These morning tasks will focus on maths, reading grammar and punctuation or writing; therefore, giving parents the opportunity to see aspects of the Y6 curriculum. We would like to invite parents in on every Monday morning, starting 14th January, 8:40am – 9am.

War and Peace

Throughout this term, we will continue with our learning on conflict and the impact on people's lives. The focus will remain on World War 1 and World War 2 and how life was affected.

Learning

As **historians**, we will continue to explore different conflicts that have taken place and how these have impacted on life and future generations; we will study what daily life would have been like and look at life on the front line. As **geographers**, we will continue to look at countries involved in World War One and Two, identifying countries that were involved in both wars and identifying reasons for this. As **scientists**, we will study animals, including adaptation.

In English, we will be using *Running on the Roof of the World* to develop our persuasive and argumentative skills: we will be writing persuasive letters and balanced arguments about trekking in the Himalayas. We will be supporting their learning by using drama techniques, including debating with each other as we build up our vocabulary and using television clips set in the coldest regions. The children will gather their information through conducting thorough research.

In maths, children will continue with solving problems involving four operations before moving onto fractions. The emphasis will be on developing their reasoning and problem solving skills in these areas. The learning completed here will continue to enhance their understanding and make them more confident mathematicians.

Please make sure you follow us on Twitter so that you can keep up-to-date with your child's in class learning. We regularly update this and the children love knowing their work is being showcased on there.

Running on the Roof of the World

This novel will form part of our learning during Spring 1, providing scope for children to learn about another culture. The story focuses on conflict in Tibet and the quest of two children who seek refuge in neighbouring India, trekking through the Himalayas during the winter months. The novel will provide real opportunities to debate issues and build empathy.

Learning at Home

10 Minutes Tests

As well as the home learning projects, children will now be taking home 10 minutes tests for reading, maths and GPS; in addition to these, they will also be completing a spelling homework on a weekly basis. These tests provide useful insight into the questions that children are asked in class and practice SATS, and also give us information regarding where your child is and what their next steps are. Children will be given a week to complete these and, once returned, we will go through these in class. As they will be answering the questions on a weekly basis, there should be an increase in confidence, too.

Reading

In Upper School, we aim to encourage children to acquire a love of reading. Part of this requires the children to be able to read fluently, so it is really important that you listen to your child read every day. This only needs to be for a short time each day, as little and often is the best approach when supporting

your child with their reading. Your child will be asked to choose a book from the colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library. Their home Reading Diary will be monitored by an adult on a regular basis and the children will be able to change their books once a week, during class based reading sessions.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page, and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day**, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well. Every Friday, we will look at your child's reading diary and issue a 'smile' if they have read at least four times during the week.

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 6 and projects are published half termly. Children will come home with a list of ideas for a Project from their class teacher for you to help with or you can come up with an idea of your own linked to the half term's topic. More details will follow in January.

For more guidance, please see our new 'Learning at Home Policy'.

We hope this information will enable you to support your child in their learning activities throughout the school year. We do hope that you will be able to show your support to school in our endeavour to offer broad educational experiences to our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs N. Elliott Mr J. Berkshire Miss G. Ogden

(The Year 6 Team)