



Willow and Sycamore - Year 5 & 6 Newsletter Spring 2022

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and wish you a very happy New Year. It's lovely to see the children all so positive about coming back to school. Welcome to our new pupils who have started this term - we hope you like being a part of the Downlands Community.

English

This term we will be reading the book 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver. We will be using the text to learn about different grammar and punctuation techniques as well as a narrative piece, survival guide and a setting description. Using the text, we will also continue to practise key comprehension skills and answer techniques. Alongside this, we will carry on teaching the spelling rules and regularly revisit punctuation skills previously taught.

Mathematics

We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme. Year 6 will be looking at: decimals and percentages; algebra; perimeter, area and volume, ratio, statistics and properties of shape. They will also continue to revisit key calculation skills and number knowledge. Year 5s will be looking at multiplication and division before moving on to perimeter and area, and statistics. We will be ending the term on fractions, percentages and decimals. All children will also be using TTRS to improve their times table knowledge.

Science

Pupils will be learning about electric circuits, developing a simple model of how electricity works and applying this to help understand simple experiments. They will learn how to represent electric components using circuit symbols and the difference between parallel and series circuits. They will also be considering the conductivity of everyday materials and exploring the phenomenon of electromagnetism.

Geography/Design Technology

This half term, we are looking at the impact of climate change around the world in geography. This enquiry will give pupils an insight into how changing patterns of weather at different locations around the world are impacting on the lives of real people with whom they can relate. Through the experiences of these individuals and communities, pupils will reflect upon how changes to normal and usual weather conditions can have serious implications for these people. After half term, we will move onto a unit about rivers, which will include a field trip to a local area.

MFL - French

The children will be learning French this term. The children will be looking at different French vocabulary about schools, such as objects in the classroom, different subjects, different sports and how to talk about their favourite subjects or sports.

RE

We will be learning about Christianity and investigating if anything is ever eternal and trying to understand the Christian perspective on this.

PE and Games

Games will be led for Year 5 and 6 by Mrs Robinson on a Monday. They will be playing hockey and learning team game skills. Children are expected to come to school in weather appropriate PE kit. Children are also encouraged to bring a spare pair of trainers in case their shoes get muddy on the field. This term, various groups of Year 5 pupils will be swimming at different points. They need to bring their swimming kit in a bag and have a more substantial snack. The extra exertion often makes them very hungry! P.E. lessons for those that are not swimming will be badminton.

Unless it is raining heavily, games will be outside. Girls who wear tights will also need socks. Please note: earrings must be removed or covered with a plaster (supplied from home) for PE.

RHE

Jigsaw lessons will focus on 'Relationships'. We will begin by exploring the different relationships we have, and discussing what makes a relationship healthy and what makes relationships unhealthy. They will discuss and use role play to explore situations that make us happy and appreciative but also discuss emotions such as jealousy and situations that lead to the feeling associated with jealousy.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set weekly and will be based on the children's learning from the week before. We will set homework on a Monday and expect it back completed on a Friday. This year, children will be given a homework book to stick their assignments in. Each week, they will complete an English, maths and reading task. Spellings will also be stuck in this book and children will need access to the internet to practise these spellings on 'Spelling Shed'. If children are unable to access the internet, they can of course practise these by writing them out in their homework book or verbally learning to spell them with an adult. Each piece of homework will be designed to be thirty minutes or less. The children will be encouraged to look at their homework early on in the week and if they feel they need support, tell their teacher. We are more than happy to help children in school if they are stuck. Each term, we will also set a project based on science or humanities learning. The children will be given longer periods of time in which to complete these.

SATs Club will also take place on a Wednesday, for Year 6. It will take place in Willow and Sycamore after school, from 3:15 - 4:15 pm.

School Uniform Policy

Please ensure that you have read the school uniform policy on our school website. We would like to remind children that if their hair is long they must have it neatly tied up and that no child should be wearing jewellery (with the exception of small stud earrings), or make-up (including nail varnish) in school.

We wish you a happy Spring Term and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via seesaw or the school office.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Robinson and Mr Jolliffe

