



Sycamore and Willow - Year 5/6 Newsletter Summer 2023

Welcome to the summer term. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up soon! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting Summer term. We have our residential trip at the beginning of July to look forward to and a full term of activities, including country dancing, sports day and environmental activities.

English

This term, Year 6 will be focusing on the revision of spelling, punctuation and grammar in the run-up to SATs while year 5 begin with diary writing. We will be focusing on combining all the skills that we have learnt this year, embedding them into our independent writing. After half term, we will be looking at the text 'Taff in the WAAF' and writing a non-chronological report and narrative linked with our History Topic of WW2. Children will continue assessing their spelling with weekly quizzes, practising their spellings at home each day as part of homework.

We would like to thank parents for their continued support with home reading discussions and for encouraging children to read at home four times per week (and recording this in their reading records).

Mathematics

Year 5 will start the term with shape, before moving on to coordinates, measurements conversions, negative numbers and volume. Year 6 will be focusing on revision of arithmetic, reasoning and problem-solving in the run up to SATs. After half term, we will be looking at themed projects to consolidate the mathematical skills and knowledge we have been developing this year. This will include looking at time, money and measurements - such as distance and temperature - as well as related arithmetic skills, to research our favourite holiday destinations. All children will continue to practise their mental maths, written calculations and times tables in our early bird maths sessions (first part of the day).

It is very important that children practise times tables they do not know by heart. This helps boost their confidence immensely. Mathletics can be logged into at home on a PC or tablet/iPad and children can select units that they would like to work on and complete the skills quest set for homework.

Science

At the start of term, children will be focussed on a space extension topic related to satellites: researching the many examples of artificial satellites and making a model. After half term, we will be looking at the life cycles of different living things and comparing sexual and asexual reproduction in flowering plants. We will also learn about the changes to the body as humans age, including changes experienced in puberty.

Geography/History

In geography, we are going to complete our unit looking at fair trade, which includes investigating imports and exports to and from China, as well as the positive impact that fair trade has on farmers in developing countries. After half term, we will be investigating the Second World War in history, for example the Battle of Britain, evacuation as well as the importance of code breakers such as Alan Turing.

PE and Games

Games lessons this term will include a mixture of tennis, athletics and rounders. As a reminder for new pupils, PE kit is to be worn to school on Monday and Wednesdays. If children have a spare pair of trainers, they can keep them in school for playing on the field at break time.

School PE kit should be worn with plimsolls for indoor sports and trainers for outdoor sports as appropriate. Unless it is raining heavily, P.E will be outside. Please note: earrings must be removed or covered with a plaster (supplied from home) for PE.

PSHE

Our Jigsaw topic this term is 'Changing Me'. In this unit, we look at body image and the pressures that surround this, how girls' and boys' bodies change through puberty, and the changes that occur in relationships. Then after half term, we will look at this further with the topic of 'Relationships'.

Religious Education

In R.E, children will be looking at the religion of Islam. They will be learning to challenge stereotyping through understanding different Muslim interpretations of Jihad and how this links to getting to heaven. The children will spend time during lessons having group discussions and sharing their own opinions on their own understandings.

DT

In DT, the children will be experimenting to gain an understanding of the forces used in bridge building. They will be investigating why some shapes are stronger than others and using their mathematical knowledge to work out angles and lengths which are best to use when designing and building their own bridge.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set and relate to what the children have been learning in class. We would like to stress the importance of developing good study habits and children are encouraged to look at their homework as soon as they get it and plan when they will complete each part.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Robinson and Mr Jolliffe

