



## **Year 5/6 Newsletter**

### **Newsletter Spring 2024**

Welcome to Year 5/6,

#### **English**

This term, we shall continue to explore the English curriculum through book-based learning. Cross-curricular links will be made to enable children to further explore the texts and make connections across all areas of the curriculum. Explicit grammar, punctuation and spelling skills will be taught in context in order to be applied within their independent writing.

Children will develop their reading and comprehension skills through whole class guided reading sessions alongside their independent reading. Children are encouraged to read a wide variety of text types including fiction texts such as narratives and graphic novels as well as non-fiction texts such as newspaper reports, recipes, instructions etc. This year we are recording the children's reading through 'Learning with Parents - We Read', please make a note of any reading you do with your child/ren on their page as this will help them achieve their reading targets and earn e-certificates. The children have also been allocated a school email address so that they can keep a record of all their independent reading both in and out of school. We encourage you to discuss what they have read to boost comprehension skills.

We continue to use 'EdShed' to support the learning of spelling rules. Children will have set spelling lessons per day, where they will practise the spelling rule for the week. They will also bring home a list of spellings that use the spelling rule, in their homework books. Children are encouraged to practice these with their parents at home as part of their homework and to help support this, children can log in to the 'Spelling Shed' on any device with the internet and play spelling games.

#### **Mathematics**

Each day will start with Early Bird Maths; this is an independent activity, primarily focusing on arithmetic skills, that is completed between 8.30 and 8.50am so it is important for the children to be in school promptly. Maths will be taught daily, primarily following the White Rose Maths programme and will include opportunities for children to practise core skills and then apply these to a range of real-life reasoning and problem solving questions. This combination of activities is designed to refine skills, support individual needs and build up a wealth of understanding, confidence, independence and competence through a stepped approach using concrete, pictorial and abstract processes. Regular assessments will inform further learning and where necessary small groups or 1:1 support will be available. Log-in details for Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars will be sent home so that children can practise what they have been learning.

#### **Science**

This term we are studying light. Children will learn about how light travels and that objects are seen because they either give out or reflect light into the eye. We will also investigate how shadows work. Children will carry out investigations and develop their scientific enquiry skills along with their scientific vocabulary. We also aim to include elements of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) into our investigations.

#### **History/Geography**

Our history topic this term is called: What did the Romans do for us? In this unit, pupils will gain an understanding of why the Romans invaded Britain, the challenges they faced to keep control of it, as well as the legacy they left behind (for example roads, hygiene, Hadrian's wall, food, religion, etc). After half term, the children will develop their geography skills in our unit called: Walking on sunshine! In this unit, pupils will gain an understanding of the physical and human geographical features of a region of North America, comparing and contrasting it to a

region of the United Kingdom. There will be a focus on areas such as leisure and tourism, as well as the significance of climate, natural hazards, aerospace technology and the conservation of the environment.

### **MFL - French**

We will be following the 'Language Angels' programme of study. This half term, children will be learning how to present themselves using basic greetings, describe their feelings and count to twenty. After half term, they will use their growing knowledge of French vocabulary to describe their families.

### **Computing**

Computing continues to be an integral part of the school day and the children will be developing and furthering their skills in the use of iPads. The focus this half term is on programming, whereby we will be using 'Scratch' to build interactive quizzes using conditions and variables. In Spring 2, we will complete a unit which looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. Learners will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems. They will also use a real-life database to answer a question, and present their work to others.

### **Art and Design**

Art and Design work will be inspired by our history topic this term, enabling the children to become immersed in developing their sketchbooks with drawings/sketches, research into materials and dyeing cloth. They will start to build a mood book with their thoughts and ideas. The children will investigate and develop the skills needed for a range of techniques and find out about the work of significant artists so that they can create work in a style similar.

### **PE and Games**

On Mondays, both Year 5 and Year 6 will be learning football skills, this will be taught outside weather permitting. Please ensure that your children have an adequately warm PE kit such as joggers and jumpers. On Wednesday mornings, Year 6 will be looking at dodgeball and gymnastics whilst Year 5 children will either be swimming or learning teamwork skills. Children will need to make sure that they come to school dressed for P.E on Monday and Wednesday. Ideally, they should also have indoor and outdoor trainers (the colour is not important). All jewellery (including earrings) should be left at home on PE days and if your child wears a watch/glasses, please provide a named container so they can store these items in safety.

### **PSHE**

At the start of this term, we will be focusing on 'Dreams and Goals' and, after half term, we will explore the theme of 'Healthy Me' using the Discovery Jigsaw scheme.

### **Music**

In Music, the children are following the "Sing Up!" programme as a basis for exploring various themes in music. This term, they are looking at unaccompanied singing and are learning to follow rhythms as we sing. Each week, they practise playing a range of tuned and untuned instruments and children who take music lesson are invited to perform a short piece to the class.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set each Monday and will be based on the children's learning from the week before, completed work must be returned each Friday. Their work will be stuck in their homework book, each week they will complete an English, maths and reading task. 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.

As a reminder, children should no longer be bringing in any stationery/pencil cases from home. All the items will be provided for them. Please make sure that the children's clothing meets the school's uniform requirements including P.E. kit - a copy of the school's policy is available from the office if you are unsure.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via seesaw or the school office.

**Yours faithfully**

**Mrs Garton (Sycamore) and Mr Jolliffe (Willow)**