



## Year 5/6 Newsletter Newsletter Summer 2024

Welcome to Year 5/6,

### English

Over the summer 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 continue to 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. We recommend that children read at home (preferably with an adult) at least four times a week, this should be recorded in their green reading record book - this was issued to them last term as we have moved away from using the 'Learn with parents' site.

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 practise 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. We recommend that children spend some time each week on Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars, this will continue to build upon what we have been learning in school and reinforce their time tables knowledge.

### Science

This term we are studying electricity and animals including humans. In our electricity unit, children will learn about electrical circuits and how renewable energy can be used to create electricity. In our animals including humans unit, pupils will learn about the circulatory system as well as the impact of things such as diet and exercise on our body. 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 local history topic this half term is called Mirror, Royal Signals, Manoeuvre. In this unit, pupils will gain an understanding of the history of Blandford Camp. After half term, our unit is called Current Affairs. The children will develop their local geography skills in our study of the River Stour. In this unit, pupils will gain an

understanding of the physical and human geographical features of the River Stour as it travels through Dorset, with a focus on Blandford.

### **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 3D modelling, where we will be using the online TinkerCad program to create and manipulate their own 3D models.

### **Art and Design**

Art and Design work will be inspired by our history topic this term, children will continue to develop their mood books with drawings/sketches of key locations around Blandford Camp focusing on the importance of texture, line and colour. This term we will be looking at the work of Rebecca Drury a local artist whose art is inspired by the wildlife and scenery of Dorset, whilst developing the skills and techniques required to create a lino print.

### **PE and Games**

On Mondays, children will be learning all about OAA (outdoor adventurous activities) and on Thursdays, we will be looking at tennis skills. After half term, we will move on to Athletics and Dance. Weather permitting both days will be outside, so please ensure that your children have an adequately warm PE kit such as joggers and jumpers. Children will need to make sure that they come to school dressed for P.E on these days. 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 'Relationships' and after half term, we will explore the theme of 'Changing Me' using the Discovery Jigsaw scheme. 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.

### **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 as we are more than happy to help children in school if they are stuck (please let us know if this is the case).

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.

This is a busy term for year 5/6, there will be an end of year production and for Year 6 there will be transition meetings and other end of year events as they look toward their move to secondary school. So, please keep an eye on the weekly school newsletter for key dates.

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)**