



Newsletter

Year 6 Class Teacher: Mr Blacklock Autumn Term 2019

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a great summer holiday and are feeling fresh and ready for the new academic year ahead! I am very excited to continue working with this class in Year 6 and continuing the great work we completed in Year 5. If you have any questions or wish to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so via the school office.

This term the topic we will be focusing on is WW1. The children are very keen to explore this theme across the subject areas. If you have any objects linked to WW1 (photographs, family keepsakes etc), that you don't mind sharing with our class, please feel free to send them in (clearly named). Items like these are a great stimulus for learning.

English: The key objectives are taken from the National Curriculum. This term, we will be reading a range of short stories, studying their genres, comparing authors' writing styles and techniques and using these in our own work. To begin with this term, we are reading the fantastic 'War Game' by Michael Foreman. This fictional book centres around the very real Christmas Football match that took place in No Mans Land during WW1. Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation will be taught through English lessons but also as stand alone sessions with Mrs Crankfield and Ms Cole.

Children are also encouraged to practise the cursive handwriting style and now have home access to letter join.

Maths: In this first term, we will be covering a range of concepts around number and place value as well as calculations involving the four operations, building a strong mathematic foundation. As children become comfortable and confident with these skills they will be challenged to apply them to multi-step problems in context. We will also be focusing on mental calculations and encourage children to practise their times tables whenever possible.

Children should already be familiar with Rock Star Maths, which we encourage children to use regularly to improve their skills linked to multiplication facts. Practising this area of maths have a profound impact on many of the other areas we will be covering this year.

Science: During the first half term, children in Year 5 will be studying Light and how our eyes work as part of a wider visual system.

History and Geography: In History, we will look more closely at how WW1 effected the people of Durham and learning about real families from our local area. In Geography we will be looking at forests, in our local area and across the world.

Art and DT: Within art, children will be producing various pieces of Artwork based on our theme of WW1. Creating pieces using a range of different artistic styles and methods.

Computing: This term children will be building on the coding skills they developed last year. The fantastic tool 'Discovery Coding' will be used to challenge the children's coding skills and introduce new techniques.

Music: Year 6 have the wonderful opportunity to be a big part of the Christmas show this year. Therefore we will be learning and practising the songs from this show in preparation for the big performance.

PE: On Friday afternoon children will be taking part in PE lessons linked to team games and gymnastics sessions. Children must have outdoor shoes in school on that day. It would be beneficial if trainers could be name labelled and could be left in school for the whole term. Children could also bring a pair of socks if required. PE kits will continue to be provided by the school.

RE: The curriculum will follow the Durham agreed syllabus and explore the beliefs of a range of religions and how they are expressed and why they are important to people.

PSHCE: Our Rights Respecting work will continue to run throughout all elements of school life.

Homework:

Maths— Homework will be sent out on a Thursday and will be due back on a Tuesday and will cover all of the key skills that are required for year 6. This should be completed in the maths books that will be sent home weekly.

English— Reading homework will be set using the new reading buddy scheme online, however there will be opportunities to complete this during school time if any child has difficulties accessing the site.

Spellings— Children will be given a weekly spelling test on a Monday afternoon and will receive new spelling every Thursday.

Library: Children may also choose a library book. It is your child's responsibility to return this for a new book on a Friday.

Please don't forget:

- Reading books are to be brought to school daily
- PE shoes are needed every Friday
- English and Maths homework as well as spellings will be set every Thursday and must be returned/ completed by a Tuesday

Thank you for your continued help and support with your child's learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Class Teacher: Mr Blacklock

Date: 5th September 2019