

Happy Term 1!

Welcome back to school, and we hope you are looking forward to year 6, your final year at primary school! Year 6 is an extremely exciting year, but requires all children to work hard and try their best.

In English this term, we are firstly reading a wordless picture book 'The Arrival': *a migrant story told as a series of wordless images. A man leaves his wife and child in an impoverished town, seeking better prospects in an unknown country on the other side of a vast ocean.* Writing opportunities will include: extended own version narratives, playscripts, list of rules and character descriptions. Following this, we are reading a novel called 'Windrush Child' by Benjamin Zephaniah: *in 1958, Leonard travels with his mother from Jamaica to England to join his father. The story follows Leonard as he struggles to adapt to life in Britain.* Writing opportunities will include: a persuasive pitch to the council, an informal letter, diary entry and advice.

In the second term, we are firstly reading 'Can we Save the Tiger?', a non-fiction text: *using the experiences of a few endangered species as examples, Martin Jenkins highlights the ways human behaviour can either threaten or conserve the amazing animals that share our planet.* Writing opportunities include: discussion texts, explanations and persuasive posters. Finally, we are reading 'The Last Bear', a novel by Hannah Gold: *it tells the story of April, a young girl who travels with her father to Bear Island for his scientific research. Initially, she learns that there are no polar bears left on the island. However, one night, she encounters a starving and lonely polar bear who has wandered far from home.* Writing opportunities include: newspaper article, character profile, monologue and logbook entry.

We practice spellings three times a week using Spelling Shed and our current English scheme, with a weekly 'Hive' challenge to check children's progress. Three times a week, we also complete whole class reading, where we read a text together and answer comprehension-style questions. Children will develop their grammar knowledge daily using our current English scheme, and are looking at a range of different key stage 2 concepts.

During the autumn term, we will be working through the following mathematical concepts (we have a lot to get through!): number and place value; addition, subtraction, multiplication, division; prime, square and cube

numbers; comparing, ordering, simplifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions; area, perimeter and volume; converting metric and imperial measurements; ratio and algebra. Alongside this, we will be practicing our arithmetic knowledge throughout the week.

Children need to ensure that they can recall their times tables fluently, which is believed to be essential for future success in mathematics. Children would benefit from using Times Table Rock Stars to help continue to progress: this can be accessed from home. If your child has forgotten their log-in details, please make us aware.

Geography: Biomes (the Earth's biomes, ecosystems, damage and protection of biomes).

History: The Mayan Civilisation (religion, number system, Mayan writing system, everyday life, and sources of evidence).

Science: Animals and their Habitats (circulatory system – the heart and lungs, components of blood and its function, impact of diet, exercise and smoking and drugs on health, and investigating pulse rate).

French: The Weekend

PE: PE is on a Monday with Mr Dickinson and on a Tuesday with Mrs Walker. However, this term, the children are lucky to have Adrian doing cricket on a Tuesday! Please ensure that children are wearing the appropriate coloured PE top, school jumper and tracksuit bottoms or shorts.

PSHE: Being Me in My World and Celebrating Difference.

RE: Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity? and What difference does it make to believe in ahimsa, grace and/ or Ummah?

Music: Charanga (Happy and Classroom Jazz).

Computing: Computing Systems and Networks (find information on the world wide web, learn how search engines work, evaluate different forms of communication) and Creating Media – 3D Modelling (examine the differences between working digitally with 2D and 3D graphics, make accurate 3D models).

Art: Drawing – Make my voice heard

D&T: Design and make a steady hand game

Please remember that homework is handed out on a Wednesday to be returned by Tuesday, and will be marked as a whole class. This will be mathematics and comprehension, alongside spellings, reading and times tables practice. On a Thursday, children need to bring in their Buster Book Club bookmark, as if they read and have their bookmark signed, they might even win extra playtime! The Forest School dates for this term are as follows:

Monday 22nd September and Wednesday 15th October.

The year 6 team

(Mrs Walker, Mrs Lomax, Mrs Anderson and Mrs James)