

Year 6 Newsletter
Autumn 2
2024

Well done to everybody for a great first half-term. The children have settled into the routines well, and we are really pleased with the way they have already embraced the challenges of Year 6 - especially during the Residential week.

English

In English we will be concentrating on stories of adventurers and explorers linked to our Mountains and Volcanoes topic. Our main text, an abridged version of 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' by Jules Verne, will be used to develop our narrative writing skills. We will use our first-hand experiences of caving on the residential to help with this, we will also create a persuasive leaflet about the wonderful opportunities the residential offers and will share this with the Year 5 children. We will continue to read our class novel by Bali Rai, 'Now or Never - A Dunkirk Story'.

Maths

This half term, the children will be continuing to work on their calculation methods (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). After this, our learning will focus on fractions, where the children will learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Simplifying fractions and finding equivalent fractions are crucial skills that the children will need to be able to apply confidently in order to calculate with fractions. Your child should have brought home their mock SATs papers before half term. Please take some time to go through these with your child and identify areas where they can improve.

Topic

We will be continuing our unit on mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes this half-term. Pupils will create their own digital presentation on earthquakes, linking back to their knowledge of tectonic plates from last half-term. They will look at where earthquakes occur and what causes them. Finally, we will answer our enquiry question of 'Can we prevent a natural disaster?'



Science

Our science lessons will focus on evolution and inheritance, describing how living things adapt to their environment and how they inherit characteristics from their parents. We will also study the contributions of Charles Darwin and Mary Anning to this field of science. Finally, we will investigate how different beak shapes can affect a bird's chance of survival in different situations.

French

During French this half-term, the children will write and perform a role play based on the traditional French play of 'Le Radis Geant'. They will also have the opportunity to revise vocabulary around pets, before moving onto learn Christmas language towards the end of the term.

PE

On Tuesday mornings, Elder Class will now have the opportunity to go swimming. Children can come to school already wearing their swimming kit under their uniform which maximises their time in the water. Please can children bring their towel and dry underwear to change back into in a separate bag.

Now that Year 6 are no longer doing Forest School on Thursdays, both classes will be developing their football skills with Mr Holder. Additionally, Chestnut will be building on their netball skills this half term. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school. It does not need to be taken home and washed until the school holidays. We will be continuing to have PE lessons outside despite the cold weather, so please ensure that your child always has warm jogging bottoms and a school sweatshirt available. Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery (including earrings) during PE lessons for safety reasons, so must be able to remove these themselves prior to these sessions.

Planners

The children are using their planners to inform you about what is happening during school. Please remember to check your child's planner each day and to sign their planner at the weekend. It is vital that your child is reading regularly (ideally, every day) at home, as part of their home learning. When you read with your child, or see your child reading independently, please write a short comment in their planner and we can acknowledge their efforts in school.

Homework

Maths homework will be given on a Wednesday, to return on Friday. English or wider curriculum homework will be given out on Fridays to be returned the following Monday. Spellings will be given out on Monday, with a spelling test the following Monday. As well as completing their weekly spelling sheet, children will need to independently practise the spelling rule. Please encourage your child to complete their homework and support them if required.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team:

Mr Holder, Mrs Boyd

Ms Henry and Mrs Firth