

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and are ready for another enjoyable and busy term in Year 6. We are confident that we will be able to work together in order to provide the children with a happy and productive year.

Please may we take this opportunity to remind you of the expected equipment that your child will need this year. It is essential that your child has a suitable sized pencil case which must include writing pencils, a 30cm ruler, rubber, black handwriting pen and pencil sharpener. Please ensure that your child's equipment will not distract themselves or others during lessons. Please also ensure that they wear correct school uniform, which must be labelled. Children will also need a named water bottle on a daily basis.

In our English lessons, we will be basing our work on two novels - *Letters From The Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll and *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. These novels tie in nicely with our work in other subjects. Writing skills, for both fiction and non-fiction, will be developed by looking closely at paragraph structure. Sentence punctuation skills will be further developed and the children will be using a range of punctuation in their writing, including inverted commas, semi-colons, colons, brackets, etc. Regular work on spelling strategies will take place each week. We shall be revising spelling rules covered in previous years whilst looking at a range of irregular words. We will also be continuing to improve our grammar knowledge in preparation for the upcoming assessments. We will continue to develop skills of comprehension and the ability to infer and deduce.

Maths again looks at further developing an understanding of the four operations of number and refining paper and pencil methods of calculating. The children will need to continue to learn their times tables. It is very important that they can calculate using a range of arithmetic skills and apply these to solving word problems. We will also be looking at shape, data and measure.

In our science lessons, our topics will be Animals Including Humans and Evolution and Inheritance.

In our history lessons, we will be studying World War II. We will also be having a World War II workshop on Monday 19th January.

In geography, we will continue to study South America, and begin exploring our new topic of our Active Planet including mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

In our computing lessons, we will be learning about data input and using microbits.

Our French topics will cover Healthy Lifestyles and World War II.

In music, we will be looking at jazz music and pop music.

In our RE lessons, we will be continuing to study Christianity. We will consider key moral questions on eternity and if Christianity is still a strong religion today.

Our PSHE lessons will focus on the units Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me. These will look at setting ourselves goals and how to achieve them as well as looking at how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

In DT, we will be looking at using computer programming for a purpose, designing a structure in order to keep something safe that incorporates a programmable sign.

In art, we will be studying print work. We will explore how print work ties in with activism.

The children will have a weekly PE lesson on Thursday afternoons. Our sports coach will take these lessons. The sessions will be both inside and outside so please ensure that your child also has tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt/hoodie as well as their shorts and T-shirts. Trainers are also needed. Please make sure that their kit is clearly named and worn to school each Thursday.

Your child will be set two pieces of homework per week. This is on top of their daily reading, spelling and Times Tables Rock Stars practice. They will bring their new spellings home in their Spelling List book on Monday. These will be tested on Friday. Please assist your child in learning their spellings each week. On Tuesday, we will set English homework on www.spag.com. We will expect the English homework to be completed by Friday. Then, on Friday we will send home maths homework which will be due by Tuesday. This will be on www.maths.co.uk. The online homework is designed to take no longer than thirty minutes and will consolidate what the children have learnt at school in preparation for the SATs and secondary school. The websites should work on all devices. If your child has lost their login details, please contact us and we can re-issue it for them.

Just a reminder that SATs week is the week beginning Monday 11th May, and we ask that you do not book any holidays for this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can work together to ensure an enjoyable spring term for your child.

Mrs A. Cordell and Miss B. Fox