

Year 6 Autumn Term (1st Half) Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! Before we get into the details of the subjects Year Six will be covering this half term, I would like to remind everybody that the school journey to the Isle of Wight will soon be upon us. Leaving on Monday 31st October and returning on Friday 4th November, the trip to Kingswood is a highlight in the children's school career. I hope that everybody will be able to go. It is a great way to build upon the spirit within the class and develop the confidence of the children before the transition to secondary school. I also hope that it will be a great reward for all of the hard work I am certain they will put in during this year.

The school journey costs £165. Payments can be made in the office and Maureen will be available to set up payment cards if you would like to pay in instalments. Your child should have also brought home a medical and special dietary information form. This is very important, particularly the medical health number, and should be returned by Friday 30th September at the very latest. I will be able to provide more information and answer any questions you may have about the school journey at the secondary transfer meeting which we are holding on Tuesday 20th September at 6:30. A separate letter has already been sent home about this important meeting.

The following is an overview of the subjects and activities we will be covering this half term.

In Literacy we have begun by producing work based on Louis Sachar's novel *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. We will also be using scenes from the film *My Neighbour Totoro* to practise comprehension skills and inspire the use of metaphorical descriptions. We will then look at how to use personification in poetry and how this metaphorical device can be used to enliven all fictional writing. Later this half term we will look at biographies. Using this as an opportunity to tie into our history topic, the children will analyse and write biographies for figures from the Tudor period. Grammar, punctuation, spelling and handwriting skills will continue to be developed alongside these units of work.

In Maths we will begin with a refresher on operation skills before working on sequences, negative numbers, and decimal notation for tenths, hundredths and thousandths. Later, we will be deriving related multiplication and division facts involving decimals from multiplication facts to 10×10 , using approximations, inverse operations and tests of divisibility to estimate and check results. We will then, amongst other processes, develop multiplication and division skills for decimals and knowledge of square numbers up to 12×12 and how to derive the corresponding squares of multiples of 10. Much of the maths will be set in real life contexts and there will be a focus on practical data handling skills at the end of the half term. We will have a weekly mental maths test and those children that do not know their times tables must be encouraged to take the initiative in learning these facts as soon as possible.

In Science the children have started a short unit that will extend their knowledge of the ways in which plants and animals in different habitats are interdependent and suited to their environment. In the next unit the children will learn about how micro-organisms feed, grow and reproduce and how they may be harmful or beneficial.

In History we will be studying the Tudors. We will examine the differences between the lives of rich and poor people in Tudor times. We will consider the personal, political and religious factors for the six marriages of Henry VIII. The children will learn about the reasons for, and results of, exploration of the world by people in the sixteenth century and its impact on sailors, settlers and indigenous peoples. As part of Black History Month in October we will look at the experience of black people in England during Tudor times. This will provide an opportunity to relate Elizabethan England to contemporary issues surrounding identity and immigration.

In Art the children will be producing a range of work based on our history topic. They will begin by painting portraits of Tudor monarchs. In Design and Technology the children will be continuing our school tradition of designing and making Tudor shoes! They will use a pattern to produce panels that match their feet size and then they will sew these together and decorate the final product.

In ICT the children will create a multimedia presentation in PowerPoint using text, images, and sounds. They will be taught to create links between pages and show sensitivity to the needs of their audience. These presentations will be based on our Tudors and RE topics.

In Music we will develop a repertoire of class songs and they will work together to compose their own music and songs. We will also be attending the Youth Primary Prom at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 12th October. A further letter about this trip will be sent home shortly.

In PE the children will continue to play cricket with Tony Moody on a Wednesday afternoon. We will also have PE on Mondays. It is very important for all of the children to participate and therefore they must bring suitable footwear on these days.

In PSHE & C (Personal, Social, Health Education & Citizenship) we will be focusing on new beginnings, understanding one another's feelings, working with others and making choices.

In RE we will be studying Hinduism and we are hoping to visit a Hindu place of worship. We will consider Hindu beliefs about a "world family" and the important stages in the journey of life.

The first homework of the term will have been handed out today. I will set homework every Thursday and expect the work to be returned on the following Tuesday. The homework will generally be based on learning objectives from the preceding week. Sometimes the children will be allowed to choose how they present their understanding but on many occasions I will set specific tasks which I expect them to complete.

Please do feel free to raise any questions you may have. I will be available between 3:30 and 4:00 if required each Wednesday.

With Best Wishes,

Neil