



Year 5 and 6 Class Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2023 - 2024

Dear Parents of Year 5 and 6,

Welcome to the last half-term of the year! I'm not quite sure how it's June already, and I'm sure you're much the same. We have lots to look forward to in the final weeks of the year, with the residential, an RE trip, hopefully more opportunities to go to the Rec in Twyford, and of course: transition days! In amongst all of these exciting activities, we are still following our usual weekly timetable and delivering our usual learning opportunities, as outlined below:

Our Summer 2 Curriculum

English – Writing	To start this half-term, we are continuing with looking at Shakespeare's 'MacBeth' which we started to study in the last week before we broke up. Building on the fun we have had acting out scenes using the original playscript, and reading abridged soliloquys, we will be moving on to writing our own soliloquys in character, with a focus on language choice and varied sentence length to develop the atmosphere. Following on from this, we will be exploring the structure of sonnets and then using this to create our own sonnet inspired poetry based on the plot of MacBeth, before using our trip to Longridge as the stimulus for further writing.
English – Reading	Our skill focus with reading this half-term is explanation, where children will be required to answer questions about the text using suitable quotes. The book we will be using mostly for our reading sessions is the fast-paced, action-adventure novel: 'The Curse of the Maya' in which twin twelve-year-olds travel to Guatemala with their archaeologist father to explore a newly found Maya city and discover an ancient mask. Is the mask the cause of the end of the Maya civilisation, or is something more underhand going on? Linking neatly with our history topic, I'm sure the children will enjoy this mysterious tale.
Maths	We are diving straight into some algebra this half-term where we shall be looking at solving straightforward linear equations such as $y=5x+9$ and building towards identifying multiple pairs of answers to solve equations e.g. $100 = C \times D$ as well as looking at word problems which involve formulas. Following this, we will be recapping key skills to ensure a secure understanding including calculations with fractions, knowledge of equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages, and a recap of the formal methods for the four operations, as well as exploring the Mayan numeral system.
Science	Continuing the topic 'Evolution and Inheritance' we shall be identifying how animals and plants in our own environment are adapted to survive, and then be looking at how scientists classify creatures and plants according to specific characteristics. This will include exploring the work of Carl Linnaeus, and of course, looking at the anomalies in the system such as a platypus, and why it is technically a mammal.
History	Our final History study this year is all about The Ancient Mayans where we shall be firstly learning about where this period fits into history, and what was happening elsewhere in the world at this time, before learning about the Gods and belief systems, the food and trade links, and significant achievements. Additionally, we will be developing our skills as historians by exploring photographs of artefacts, then applying our learning to propose

	what the item might be and how it was significant to the Ancient Mayan people, similar to our activity exploring Tudor Torture devices earlier in the year.
Computing	Across the school, in Summer Term 2, we will be looking at coding in computing. This is the trickiest part of computing we do in primary school, which is why we leave it until the summer term. In Year 5 and 6, the children will be simulating traffic light code, looking at different functions when coding a football game and introducing variable strings when blasting aliens! The children will be able to access their purple mash learning at home so if they wanted to do some coding at home and hone their skills then they are very welcome to.
Art	Linking with history, we shall be working with clay to produce Mayan-inspired pots and tiles. This will include developing our drawing skills to plan our designs, as well as learning new skills including how to join pieces of clay together; how to smooth out clay effectively; and how to carve details into the clay using tools.
RE	This term we will be continuing to find out about how religions and world views began. We will begin by looking at the origins of Hinduism and the founder of the Sikhi religion, Guru Nanak. We will then find out about the Humanism world view and learn about influential figures. We will then reflect on the founders and leaders that we have learnt about and think back to what we decided made a good leader at the start of the unit; Have the influential figures shown the values of a good leader?
PSHE	In PSHE, we will be focussing on growing-up and keeping safe, including the following sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being more independent – what this might look like and how it may feel • transition to secondary school and how this may affect their feelings • how relationships may change as they grow up or move to secondary school • how to report the misuse of personal information or sharing of upsetting content/images online • about the different age rating systems for social media, T.V, films, games and online gaming • why age restrictions are important and how they help people make safe decisions about what to watch, use or play • the risks and effects of different drugs • the laws relating to drugs common to everyday life and illegal drugs The lessons will be predominantly discussion based, using a range of prompts including videos and texts to support our understanding and thinking, as well as short writing tasks to help us express our individual opinions. As always, our lessons will have a clear link to our school value of respect when sharing our own and listening to other's points of view.

Homework:

Homework will continue to be set via Google Classroom every Friday, with a due-date of the following Thursday, and homework club continues to run every Tuesday lunchtime from 12.00-12.30. As always, the homework tasks are relevant to current learning and should not feel onerous for the pupils.

Reading:

Let's have one final push for regular reading – we know many of you are so close to that next award, and quite a few platinum awards are waiting in the wings! Please continue to read with your child as regularly as you can and ask them questions about what they have read. Reading records should be filled in every time they read at home, and can record any book or reading material, not just texts from school.

Just as last term, children are asked to ensure they have their reading record with them on Thursday, and this is when reading books will be changed as required.

Spelling:

Over this half-term in spelling we shall be exploring the following spelling rules and patterns:

- Contractions e.g. should've
- Singular and plural possessive apostrophe e.g. deer's
- Endings which sound like /ʒən/ spelt as -sion e.g. confusion
- Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c e.g. deceive
- More prefixes: auto-, inter-, sub-, super- e.g. interconnected
- Verb prefixes: dis-, mis-, de-, re-, over e.g. dehydrate
- Homophones and other words that are often confused e.g. passed/past

To support fluency with these spelling rules, children are required to log on to Spelling Shed at home to complete an 'assignment' for that week as part of their homework.

Additionally, please continue to use the Spelling Passports to support your child's learning of key curriculum words – as this is still a new initiative, any questions or feedback is warmly welcomed.

Times Table Rockstars:

Along with the excitement of Spelling Shed, we also want to continue to promote Times Table Rockstars – this is a brilliant way to practice rapid recall of timestable facts, and certainly supports many areas of mathematics.

PE Days

Our PE days this term are still Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for the activities and weather on that day.

Residential – Wednesday 19th June to Friday 21st June

We are very much on a countdown now! Please rest assured, there have been no changes made to any of the information provided previously, and to support the children feeling prepared and ready to embark on this challenge, will be having mini-lessons about different residential topics each day so that any questions or concerns may be easily addressed.

Myself and Mrs Bristow had the opportunity to visit Longridge the other month and meet some of the staff we will be working with. Visiting in person really confirmed it is a perfect fit for our Twyford children as it is a secure site, with all activities and facilities nearby, meaning children will be able to really practice being independent whilst remaining safe (and should water bottles, jumpers etc. be left in a tent, it won't be too tricky to pop back and get them from any activity!) Additionally, I was able to ask about the water safety, and have been told that the leak in Oxfordshire is downstream from the site at Longridge, and – like any water sports provider – the water is tested regularly to ensure the safety of all participants.

Residential Quick Reminders:

- It is a usual drop off time of 8.40am on Wednesday 19th June
- All medication must be in their original boxes, clearly named, and given in to the office with the completed medication form
- All children need a packed lunch and re-fillable water bottle for the first day
- All children need a sleeping bag and pillow
- Snacks to share are welcome and will need to be handed in, but please note Longridge is a no-nut site
- Ensure your child has suitable clothes and footwear for all weathers regardless of the forecast
- Please do not send your child with denim clothing or open toe shoes
- Please name everything
- No electronics are to be brought, but children may wish to bring small games e.g. Uno, Dobble, etc
- Our ETA back at school is 3.15pm on Friday 21st June, but we shall be in touch if there are significant changes
- Follow us on Instagram to have a sneak-peak into what we've been up to whilst we're away
<https://www.instagram.com/twyfordcofeschool/>

Please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the residential and we will do our best to respond to you as quickly as possible as we appreciate for some this is their first experience of being away from home.

As always, please do not hesitate to arrange a time to meet with me, either by asking me directly or via the school office, should you ever have any questions or would like to discuss how your child is getting on.

Mrs Hood
Year 5 and 6 Class Teacher