

Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! Here we go with Year 6. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that the children received my postcard. Year 6 will really be their best yet; we've got so many exciting things planned.

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

I am happy to announce that the children will be performing 'Twelfth Night' at **Greenwich Theatre** on **Wednesday 30th October 2019** (information about tickets for the performance will be given closer to the time.) Therefore, Parents' Evening will be held on **Wednesday 16th October from 1.15pm -7pm**. Please note that this date is **only for Year 6**; all other parents' evenings will remain on the 30th October.

In **English**, we will be studying Shakespeare, deciphering the language and writing a newspaper report and writing in role as the characters. We will also be involved in drama activities to help the children with their performance. Whilst we will continue with our Shakespeare in rehearsal times in the afternoons, we will move on to persuasive letter writing, examining the features of a formal letter. We will be finishing this half term with report and information text writing to support our learning of the Tudors in history.

In **Maths** we will spend the entire term on number: calculations, number patterns, negative numbers and place value will be covered to ensure there are no gaps from last year's learning. Problem solving and worded problems will also be prominent throughout the term. It is vital that the children are solid with long division and multiplication by the end of this term and know their times table facts; the rest of the year will be very difficult without these things in place, so please talk to me ASAP if you have a concern about this.

In **Science** Andrew will teach the children. They will be learning about microorganisms, habitats, adaptation and evolution. The children will continue to develop their scientific enquiry skills with lots of observations, experiments and research.

This half term we will be focussing on **Geography** in our topic lessons. We will be familiarising ourselves with different map types and increasing our understanding of geographical vocabulary. We will use digital mapping to look at routes around London and we will also be visiting Crystal Palace park to help with our studies of sketch maps. We will use political maps to locate key cities within the UK that were critical to the battles of 1066 and will also be discussing advantages and disadvantages of the routes that invading armies took across Europe to reach England.

In **RE** we will be studying Islam and seeking to answer the key question of 'What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?' We will focus on The Ummah – the world family of Muslims, the spread of Islam and its multicultural nature. We will also learn about how Muslim families and communities practise their faith, and the contributions this makes to local life.

In **Art** the children will be looking at and producing their own Tudor portraits to support our learning in Topic. We will focus on proportion and developing our sketching and painting techniques. We will also look at some important artists (Picasso, Giuseppe Arcimboldo, Andy Warhol, Hans Holbein, Amedeo Modigliani) and their styles of portraits.

In **ICT**, we will begin with a revision of the importance of E-safety. The children will also learn how to research information on the internet safely and effectively and be discerning in evaluating digital content and research.

In **Music** we will listen to some Tudor music and also use this time for our Shakespeare production; getting musical numbers ready for the show!

PE with Michael will be on Mondays and Tuesdays. If the weather is fine, this session will be in the playground, so please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear and clothing to change into for this session.

We will continue to be a part of the Burnet News Club to aid with our studies in **PHSE** (Personal, Health, Social, Education). This provides a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop critical thinking and literacy skills through open discussions about current affairs. Our first topic will be **Hong Kong in Crisis: should the UK intervene?** All children will be given their own login to the 'BNC Hub' (when parental permission forms have been returned) and they are invited to post questions and thoughts on each issue. If you would like to keep up to date with the topics we are studying, please visit <https://www.burnetnewsclub.com/>.

Our school value for the term is 'Resilience' which will be mostly taught through whole school assembly. We will also look into Growth vs Fixed Mindsets and think about how a Growth Mindset can really help the children to reach their full potential this year.

Children will be given Homework Activity Grids at the beginning of each half term to encourage independent learning around their topics. They will be expected to complete at least **three** of these during the half term, with at least one of the activities being literacy based and one being maths based. The children will also be given a maths workbook to progress through independently throughout the year; they are expected to complete 6 pages (equivalent to 1 page per week) per half term and bring the books in with their learning from the grid. Children are expected to read for 20 minutes every day and have their reading records signed at home.

Please bring any questions or concerns directly to me; I available on Mondays after school alternatively, you can make a morning appointment via the office. ☺ I have been looking forward to teaching this class again and I know it's going to be a fantastic year!

With best wishes,

Tanya