

Monday 5th September 2016

Dear families,

Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely summer! First of all, a key date for your diary: Monday 12th September, 5:30pm - Year 6 Curriculum Evening. Please come along to find out about your child's busy year ahead ☺

This term is set to be a really busy but exciting one...

Topic: Our over-arching topic this term is Geography based and looks at landscapes and sustainable development. We will be looking at some global landscapes to develop wider geographical skills and then focusing in on local landscapes. Children will discuss geographical features of their environment and land-use by carrying out field work. We are going to particularly focus on the development of Junction 16 and link this to non-fiction writing in literacy. Children will be preparing balanced arguments which identify the pros and cons of the development and will then be given the chance to choose a side and persuade others of their point of view. We will also be using landscapes as inspiration for poetry writing. Linking to the theme of sustainable development, children will be designing their own green buildings and will be using wood work skills to make their own models. In art, we will be studying the landscapes of Hockney and Ackroyd and using these as inspiration for our own landscapes. We will also be visiting Tate Britain in November where children will be participating in artist led workshops.

In Science, we will be looking in more depth at classification of all living things. Children will be carrying out their own investigations of habitats within the school grounds, developing different sampling techniques and investigating ways of identifying unknown specimens. They will also be finding out about micro-organisms.

Our initial focus in literacy will be narrative writing. This too will be linked to our landscapes topic by using 'The Varmints' as a stimulus. Children will continue to receive a sentence of the week which will be tested on a Monday. I cannot stress enough the importance of learning these - they will contain key spellings and punctuation marks which they must know in order to achieve the required standard in the SPaG test at the end of the year. Encouraging your child to read as much as possible is also important; we will be taking in reading records every Tuesday and rewarding children for their progress.

In numeracy, we will be revisiting all key areas of the maths curriculum starting with calculations. We will continue to have a times table test every Friday focusing firstly on times tables, then division facts. When these have been mastered, children's wider mental maths skills will be challenged to encourage quick and accurate strategies.

In R.E. we will be looking at the theme of spirituality, exploring our own and others' ideas about what this means and how spirituality is expressed. Children will continue to have music with Mrs Bristow who has organised another exciting project for this term (more details to follow) and P.E. will continue to be supported by our sports leaders. Please ensure children always have the correct kit in school - we will be outside as much as possible!

Homework will follow exactly the same pattern as last year but with an increased focus on children utilising their metacognitive skills and attitudes when completing it.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask. We are all very much looking forward to working with your children again,

Miss Thompson, Mrs Simpson & Mrs Morrall