

Class 6

The Bliss Charity School



Term 3



Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a very merry Christmas – here's to a great 2018!

We are all set for another busy term with many great learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, as well as the excitement of Kingswood!

As we head towards the SATs in May, please can I stress how important it is that children are reading as much and as widely as possible. Please pop in and see us if your child is in need of reading inspiration!

Many thanks,

The Class 6 Team



Term 3 Topic: *Evolution and Explorers*



Our over-arching theme for this term is science-based. The children will be finding out about how species have evolved over time and they will be learning about Darwin's theories of natural selection and adaptation.

Alongside a study of Darwin and the paleontologist Mary Anning, the children will be identifying ways both plants and animals change over time through gene variation, recognising how they have adapted to suit the environments in which they live.

Linked to this, in our geography and history sessions, we will be tracing the journeys of explorers around the world, including Darwin, and looking at these explorations in their historical contexts.

In art, the children will be making their own papier-mâché globe to represent the seven continents accurately and the main lines of latitude. On 15th January, the children will be taking part in an 'Explorers Workshop' and also a 'Black History Workshop' which will look ahead to our topic next term.

Literacy and numeracy

In literacy, we will be continuing our grammar, punctuation and spelling focus alongside creative writing. Our main writing topic this term is biographies. We will study the biographies of the explorers Amundsen and Sacagawea, identifying their key features. The children will then select an explorer of their own to research and write a biography about them. Once they have written their initial biographies, the children will then be using their knowledge of Darwin or Columbus to write an independent piece for their writing portfolios.

Numeracy this term will focus on shape, space and measures – children will be revising shapes and the related vocabulary, using their knowledge to develop their reasoning skills. This will include using co-ordinates as well as translating and reflecting shapes. We will continue to practise arithmetic skills and times tables too – please keep up the practise at home too as these are vital for SATs success!

Other subjects...

In R.E., the children will be finishing their 'Milestones and Meaning' unit of work.

P.E. this term is hockey - this will take place outside in all but torrential rain. Please ensure children have warm kit, as the cold weather is likely to persist. The children will also be participating in gym during PPA time.

The children will be using their computing skills across the curriculum and will be finishing the *Charanga* unit called 'You've got a Friend' in music lessons.

During PPA time, the children will be having *P4C* style sessions led by Mrs. Simpson where they will be talking about current affairs and developing their own juicy questions to stimulate discussion.

Helping your child at home ...

- Homework will always be **given on a Friday**. On every other Friday, children will be given a learning log topic – they will be expected to produce a double-page project on the given topic.

We will always discuss ideas in class first and the children will be given suggestions for what could be included – we will then share the learning logs as a class once they have been marked. These are a great opportunity for children to develop their writing techniques and targets and engage their metacognitive skills and attitudes – best efforts will always be rewarded with a suitable token.

- On the other Friday, the children will be given a piece of homework to practise their SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a piece of homework to develop their mathematical skills (this is now often set via *My Maths*).
- All homework is **due in by Wednesday** at the latest. Children will be expected to complete homework during a subsequent lunch break if it is not handed in. Children should be encouraged to complete homework as independently as possible – we really want them to come and talk to us if they are having any difficulties so we can give them further support.
- The children should be reading for at least 20 minutes every day, pushing the volume that they are reading! Please encourage them to read aloud if possible. Reading records will be taken in on a Tuesday. They are doing really well with getting these in and are moving around our rewards board 😊!
- 'Sentence of the Week' will be tested every **Monday**, with times tables/arithmetic tests on alternate on **Fridays**.
- Children in Mr. Carter's maths group will receive weekly maths homework – this will usually be set on a Friday and due in by the following Friday. The children in this group will also practise their times tables weekly (usually on a Friday).

Class 6 information ...

- Monday 15th January – Explorers and Black History workshops
- Sunday 28th January (11:00 am) – Class 6 to Kingswood
- Friday 2nd February (approximately 4:00 pm) – Class 6 return from Kingswood
- Monday 19th February (5:30 pm) – Year 6 SATs information meeting