

Year 6 Spring Term 2009



Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a good holiday. Here's a brief glimpse into what's in store for the children this term.



In **Literacy** this term children will be developing their skills in writing, focusing mainly on non-fiction texts such as: persuasive writing, explanation texts, instructional texts, report writing, constructing balanced arguments, formal writing e.g. letters of complaint, invitations and instructions. They will be analysing texts, improving sentence structure and punctuation, thinking about the audience when writing, making appropriate vocabulary choices to engage the reader and developing editing and improving skills.

In **Maths**, children will be focusing on: multiplication and division, mental calculations strategies, pencil and paper procedures, fractions, decimals and percentages, properties of numbers, ratio and proportion and sequences. In shape, space and measures we will cover: rotations and reflections, angles, 2D and 3D shapes, perimeter, area and measures problems. In data handling we will be interpreting line graphs, frequency tables and charts. As part of these topics children will be developing their calculation skills, estimating and checking answers, as well as improving problem solving skills and the ability to apply their knowledge in a range of contexts.



In **Science** we will be studying the following topics: forces, light, living things and how they are adapted to their environment, and electricity. Children will develop their investigative and analytical skills in practical work, as well as identifying reasons for trends in collected data. They will also improve their ability to explain scientific phenomena using the correct technical vocabulary. During this term we will also be visited by the Seek Science organisation who provide fun, hands-on experiments demonstrating scientific concepts and principles. In addition to this, previous topics taught in earlier years will also be revised.



In **ICT** children will develop their skills through other areas of the curriculum. For example, we will be designing postcards in French using powerpoint to send to our partner school. We will be creating spreadsheets to analyse investigation results from the forces topic in science. Children will also be creating a multimedia presentation as part of our work on persuasive writing.



Our foundation topics are:

RE - Sikhism: understanding the origins of Sikhism, learning about customs and festivals and comparing and contrasting Sikhism with Christianity.

Geography - Rivers: we will be studying the journey of a river and identifying and explaining the changes that occur along its course. We will be identifying the uses of the river and drawing and annotating maps and aerial pictures.

During this topic we will visit the river Cam at Milton, drawing sketches and taking photographs to support our learning.

PE - Games - sending and receiving a ball and attacking/defending a zone; creating small-sided games to practise skills. Gym - 'flight'- floor and apparatus work. Dance - 'journey of a river' - responding to music/body control/cannoning and synchronisation/unison

Art - A sense of place. We will be looking at how to draw buildings and landscapes using perspective by taking into account relative size and distance.

PSHCE - Keeping safe: recognising situations where they take responsibility for their own safety; how to avoid accidents and promoting safety in the community.

Homework will continue to be given on Thursdays and should be returned the following Tuesday. Year 6 children will also be given a Maths and Science book to revise topics and skills in these subjects at home. We will give these out with further details later in the term.

Our 'termly challenge' will also be set before half term which will be linked to our Geography topic on Rivers.

PE takes place on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please could all children bring appropriate indoor and outdoor PE kits on both days as circumstances and weather conditions may dictate where PE lessons take place.



As this is the term before SATs, all children will be involved in the preparations for these, which include, practice papers, studying from revision guides and revision of topics already covered in Maths, English and Science. As well as this preparation, the children will continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum.

REMINDER - 11th May to 15th May SATs WEEK

We consider this to be a very important term for Year 6 children; therefore we respectfully ask that unnecessary absences be avoided where possible.

Mrs Keller, Mr Cattermole and Miss Phillips will be continuing teaching as last term, although there will be times when the children are taught in 3, cross-class groups for Literacy and Maths. French and Music will continue to be taught by Monsieur Hicks and Miss Moulton, whilst Mrs O'Shea will continue to teach Class 13 on Friday afternoons.

We will also be beginning to think about the transition to Secondary School. It is important that children begin to take more responsibility for their own learning and develop their independence skills. At Secondary School, they will be expected to have the correct equipment with them for their lessons each day. As preparation for this it is important that the children show more responsibility for tasks such as completing and handing in their homework on time and ensuring they have their PE kits and reading books when required.

We appreciate your continued support and encouragement during this busy term.
Best wishes,

J. Cattermole L. Keller C Phillips