

**Year 6 Class Newsletter January 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello and a very happy new year to you all! Here’s to a positive and happy Spring Term 2023!

It was a really positive Autumn Term with some fantastic learning, great behaviour and really good attitudes to their work and I have really enjoyed being their class teacher (again for many!) and seeing everyone’s abilities and confidence flourish! We all know that the major focus will be preparing the children for the SATs in May but we have lots of other very exciting learning in the pipeline too.

**CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum this year continues to be very strong as we follow the varied CUSP (Curriculum for Unity Schools Partnership) Curriculum which has been created by our trust, Unity Schools Partnership. We are so pleased with our dedicated daily Reading and Writing lessons and have already started reading the incredible book Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman, which we will follow with How To Live Forever by Colin Thompson, All Aboard the Empire Windrush by Jillian Powell and The Island by Armin Greder. Our Writing focuses on Third Person Narrative: Adventure Stories, Explanatory Texts, Newspaper Reports, Autobiography and First Person Stories with a Moral (with some Shakespeare added in if we have time!).

Our CUSP Foundation Curriculum is full of exciting and progressive topics which we are all enjoying teaching and the topics we are looking forward to learning this term include:

SCIENCE – Animals, including Humans: The Circulatory System and The Kidneys

HISTORY – Windrush Generation

GEOGRAPHY – Physical Processes: Earthquakes, Mountains and Volcanoes

ART – Printmaking and Textiles: Perspective and 3D Art

DT – Food & Nutrition: Does food affect the way you feel? and Structures: How strong is a piece of Spaghetti

COMPUTING – Bletchley Park: Computing Heroes and Intro to Python

PSHE – Health and Wellbeing: Relaxation, Immunisation and Health Concerns, First Aid and Economic Wellbeing.

**THE YEAR 6 TEAM**

As you know, we sadly said a fond farewell to Mrs Trevillion at Christmas as she embarks on some wonderful retirement adventures. On Wednesdays now, we will have Mrs Davage teaching Arithmetic to the class (which I know they are delighted about as am I!) and then Mrs Nicholls will be taking them for the rest of the morning.

The class will still need to come into school in their school PE Kit on Wednesdays and Thursdays for their PE lessons with Mrs Nicholls and Mr Duers but this may be subject to change which we will inform you about via Class Dojo or Parentmail.

The class are also having great weekly French lessons with Madame Buckley every Tuesday. It is lovely to hear them as they learn their French words!

**Y6 RESIDENTIAL**

I know that the children are already excited about the Residential in June – we also have some ideas in the pipeline for the Thursday of that week so I will keep you posted on that as well! Mrs O’Hare is in charge of the financial side of this and we will be having a meeting nearer the time to let you all know more details!

**HOMEWORK**

As you know, we encourage the children to read at home as much as they can as well as practising their times tables (the crucial part of mathematical understanding) using Times Tables Rock Stars and other means, and, of course, frequently accessing their Sumdog account.

(A huge well done to Year 6 for their 5th place in the Sumdog Essex Maths Contest in the Autumn Term (and first in the school!) – SUPERSTARS!)

We will continue to send home the CGP books from next week and the weekly Spelling homework. The children have done well with these so far and they will be useful revision tools as we approach the SATS.

**SATS**

OK, I’ve said the word enough times now so I will just say this. Yes, the SATs are important but they must not become something that overwhelms the children and I do my upmost to make sure the children are confident and prepared. They are aware of what they need to do in terms of expectations in amount of work, handwriting and independent learning and are working hard to improve this. If children need extra support, this will be given to them either in class or in after-school booster groups which Mrs Nicholls will let you know about soon.

If you have any query or concern, please contact me via the school office or on Class Dojo.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jo Hammond 