

# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Year 6

Well done to everybody for a great start to Year 6. The children are settling into the classroom routines very well and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

### **Y6 Staff**

The Year 6 class teachers are Mrs Wade (Elder), Mr Holder (Chestnut), with Mr Naylor teaching the third group for Maths and English. Year 6 is supported by Mrs Firth and Ms Henry. Ms Reddish and Ms Henry teach the children on a Thursday afternoon for French, PE and RE.

### **Organisation**

We will use the children's planners every day to share news with you such as house points received as well as homework and messages. Please sign the planner at the end of each week to say that you have checked it. In Year 6, children still need to be reading at home every day and noting down the pages they have read. Please continue to sign your child's planner when a book has been read or is finished and to let us know how you think they're getting on.

### **English**

In English we will be concentrating on stories of adventurers and explorers linked to our Mountains and Volcanoes topic. Our main text, an abridged version of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* by Jules Verne, will be used to develop our narrative writing skills. As always, there will be a big focus on reading skills throughout the year and we will use our class novels, along with relevant non-fiction texts and text extracts, to support our children's development. Each child will get a reading book which must be taken home to read and brought back to school each day.

### **Maths**

Our focus this term will be to secure the children's understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be teaching the children to use formal written methods for each type of calculation. The children find Times Table Rockstars a particularly fun and engaging way of practising their times tables, and the improvements in school since using this site have been noticeable. As part of their home learning, please encourage your child to use Times Table Rockstars regularly as ensuring the children are secure with their times tables, up to 12x12, is a focus for us in the first half-term.

### **Science**

Our Science lessons will focus on the classification of living things. We will be describing how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics. As well as this, pupils will focus on the enquiry type of research to answer the question, 'Are all micro-organisms harmful?'

### **French**

The children will be developing their language around family, including asking questions about their family members.

## **Geography**

This half-term our topic is Mountains and Volcanoes. We will be learning about the physical features of volcanoes and mountains and understanding how they are formed. As well as this, we will be using maps and atlases to locate them around the world and will study the structure of the Earth (including tectonic plates) so that the children understand why mountains and volcanoes are found in certain areas. All our learning will support the children in answering the enquiry question, 'Can natural disasters be prevented?'. During our residential, we will carry out some fieldwork and we'll practise using compasses to aid our direction when hiking.

## **Art**

Our Art unit this half-term will focus on the work of Pablo Picasso. The children will research the life of Picasso, presenting their findings in creative ways. As well as this, we will critically analyse one of Picasso's pieces. Finally, the children will have the opportunity to create an abstract self-portrait in the style of Picasso before evaluating their own work.

## **PE**

Year 6 have PE on Wednesday and Thursday. They will need a plain white round-neck t-shirt, blue school shorts or blue jogging bottoms, black or royal blue leggings or skirts and trainers or pumps. Jewellery, including earrings, is not allowed to be worn during PE lessons. Please ensure that PE kits and school uniform are clearly labelled with the children's name and class. Please remind your child to take their kit home for washing every Friday and return them to school on a Monday morning.

## **Ingleborough Hall Residential**

We are very excited to have started the year with another fantastic visit to Ingleborough Hall. We are sure that the teamwork and co-operation skills that we developed over the three days will greatly benefit the children in dealing with the challenges of Year 6. We look forward to applying our experiences to different areas of the curriculum including English, Geography, History and Science.

## **Uniform**

Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. This means a white t-shirt, a school jumper with the school logo, grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt, and either black school shoes or black trainers. As we will be using the school grounds for outdoor learning as much as possible, please ensure your child has a pair of trainers or pumps as part of their PE kit.

## **Attendance**

The last year at primary school is very important and good attendance is crucial to your child's success in Year 6. It is also important for children to arrive at school on time. Certificates and prizes are awarded throughout the year to the children meeting or exceeding school's 97% attendance target.

We are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable year. Thank you for all your support so far.

The Year 6 staff: Mrs Wade, Mr Holder, Mrs Firth and Ms Henry