



Year Six Curriculum News - Autumn 2009

Dear Parents

Firstly, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday. At our first assembly I welcomed all the pupils and adults who work and learn here, hoping they settle quickly to the new school year and find it both enjoyable and successful.

Thanks to suggestions and discussions by our Home School Partnership we are changing the format of our Parents Evenings, a letter will follow soon. On 13th and 14th October we are offering two nights of appointments between 4pm and 6pm, when you will be able to talk with your child's class teacher on pastoral and academic matters. Academic information will have been passed on by subject teachers, and examples of your child's work will be available. The school will also be open for parents on 15th October from 4pm to 5pm when you are welcome to look around classrooms and meet some staff on an informal basis.

Due to our changes in timetable and staffing we are also making some changes to our Parents evenings in January and February. For parents of children in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) there will be no change; 5 minute appointments with subject teachers of your choice. For parents of children in Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) there will be longer appointments with your child's class teacher who again will be supplied with an account of academic progress from subject teachers.

I trust that you will enjoy and be informed by the following newsletter. We are all looking forward to a term of hard work, achievement and enjoyment. Please contact us if there is any matter you wish to discuss with us about the education and welfare of your child.

Yours sincerely

David Watson.

English

In Literacy we are using the theme of Autobiography as the main vehicle for language development. All pupils will have a weekly spelling list common to the groups; individuals may have a more personalised list. There will be a weekly visit to the school library in Beaumont where up to two books may be chosen. Letters, diaries and autobiographical extracts will be studied and used as models for writing. Emphasis will be placed upon a growth of working vocabulary and using a variety of punctuation. There will be opportunities for Drama and the development of Speaking and Listening.

Maths

This year pupils will be following the Primary Framework for maths. Over the term pupils will cover the following five blocks of work.

- Counting, partitioning and calculating
- Securing number facts, understanding shape
- Handling data and measures
- Calculating, measuring and understanding shape
- Securing number facts, relationships and calculating

Homework will be given most weeks and may include SATs questions to help build pupils' skills at answering this type of problem. Some of the pupils who are particularly strong in maths will be given the opportunity to take part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a national competition run by the UK Maths Association.

Science

Year 6 will be studying topics based on Ginn Star Science and Exploring Science. We will begin by studying **Changes**. This topic deals with chemical and physical changes and involves a lot of lab work. We will be looking at the processes of evaporation, condensation, freezing, and melting, and the separation techniques of sieving, filtering, distillation and evaporation. We will be recapping on the water cycle. We will then go on to study **Electricity** and have lots of hands-on experience making and testing circuits thanks to the generosity of the PTA funding our refurbishment of equipment.

History

Following general discussion and some research into major world civilisations of the past, the term's work will then begin on key features of Aztec society up to and including the Spanish Conquest and the effects of the Spanish invasion on the Aztecs.

Geography



Pupils in Year 6 will be looking at what geography is and how it is used in everyday life. Pupils will also be looking at the position of where they live in a global, national and local scale. Once this has been established pupils will then be studying a range of map skills. This will involve being able to read, interpret and draw their own maps at different scales as well as being able to use directions and plan routes. Later on in the term, pupils will conduct a study into environmental issues and with a specific study on tropical rainforests.

Art and Design

This term we will be looking at the use of materials to create texture through the production of texture mobiles. We will look at the way in which picture surfaces can be built up and we will examine the work of a range of artists who have used collage and printing techniques to create Art work.



Life skills

In Life skills pupils study units of work covering material from Religious Education, Personal and Social Education, Citizenship and, in KS2, Information and Communications Technology.

During the year, pupils will cover six units of work. These will cover subjects such as relationships, rights and responsibilities, bullying and environmental issues as well as looking at aspects of Christianity and introducing other faiths such as Hinduism to prepare children to live in a multi – cultural society.

We start by talking about class and school rules and responsibilities, including moral issues raised by responses to peer pressure, and then move on to rules and responsibilities within the home. We look at the Ten Commandments and discuss what they mean and how they relate to the rules that we have already examined. In RE we will be looking at what it means to be a Christian.

French

This term pupils will learn to talk about themselves in some detail. They will learn to say where they live and learn words for various European countries. They will also learn to talk about their brothers and sisters and their pets. They will be able to describe themselves and others using a range of adjectives. The activities related to this work will be varied – to include oral and group activities, games, songs and raps designed to stimulate and maintain pupils' interest and to promote self-confidence in language learning skills.



Food technology

The emphasis on Year 6 is food. Pupils will learn the basic procedures of safety and hygiene in a food environment and how to select and use the appropriate tools and develop basic culinary skills. They will learn how fruit and vegetables can be nutritious. The pupils will have the opportunity to design and create a variety of dishes including fruit crumble, pasta salad and pizza. They will plan and evaluate the outcomes of their practical work.

Technology

All pupils will design and make a jitterbug creature, which will move around in a similar motion to a 'Furby'. Simple circuits will be designed and constructed using a cell, switch, motor and possibly LEDs. Injection moulding techniques will be incorporated into the legs to make them sturdy for the task. Other joining techniques using nuts, bolts/screws and the glue gun will also be made available for the project.

Music



Year 6 begin the year with a project entitled 'Building Bricks'. In this project pupils consolidate their understanding of the '*Elements*' of music; i.e. pitch, tempo, dynamics, duration etc. The project involves composition, performance, listening activities and includes a large-scale class composition/performance entitled 'Bumps and Crashes', which is not as noisy as it seems. There will be listening tests, where pupils will use their knowledge of the '*Elements*' to describe what is happening in the music; and we will sing a variety of songs based upon the '*Elements*' of music learned.

ICT



This term pupils will be learning to create a multimedia presentation using text, images and sounds. They will be taught to create links between pages and how to address their presentation to the audience.

Physical Education

All pupils follow blocks of work in the following activities; football, netball, rugby and hockey. All classes are taught in mixed groups and cover skills such as sending, receiving and scoring, developing their understanding of basic rules. The skills are taught individually or in small groups and the pupils play small-sided team games to develop their awareness of team or group tactics.

Homework

In Year 6 pupils will receive homework once a week based on English and Mathematics. Science will be set more irregularly as dictated by the topic being studied. French will be set once a fortnight. Homework may also be set from time to time in other subject areas as and when it is felt appropriate.

Pupils will be given two or three days to complete homework tasks and the day on which they are due will be noted in the Home-School planner.

The amount of time spent on homework will vary from pupil to pupil but should generally be no longer than 40-45 minutes. Pupils are encouraged to read at home on a regular basis for at least 30 minutes per week.