



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Year 6 - Half Term Curriculum Plan - Home Learning Letter

Autumn 2 – November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope the children have had an enjoyable half term break. We have been so pleased with how well the children have settled in to Year 6 and look forward to discussing their progress with you, at the upcoming Parent Consultations. This coming half term is set to be a very busy, and we are very excited to begin rehearsals for our Junior Nativity Production!

Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	This half term we will be looking at a War of the Worlds extract. We will use this to discuss and identify the features of science fiction texts and to identify and explore unfamiliar vocabulary. We will create summary flowcharts then plan and write a continuation to the text. We will then move on to look at the features of newspaper reports, planning and writing our own articles. Although we will be looking at a wide range of grammar (further consolidating our KS2 knowledge) we will be particularly focusing on adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We will also look at punctuation such as commas, hyphens, dashes and semi-colons.
Reading	Year 6 will be focusing on their Reciprocal Reading 'fab four' strategies this half term: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising. Alongside our War of the Worlds focus text, the children will be involved in reading comprehension tasks and will further develop their independent reading skills using the Accelerated Reader scheme.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will be focusing on fractions. The children will look at equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions. We will be comparing, adding and subtracting fractions, and also looking at improper fractions and mixed numbers. Later in the half term, the children will look at multiplying fractions by integers and also other fractions. We will also be consolidating knowledge of finding fractions of amounts. Later in the half term, we will look at calculating and converting measures.
Science	Our new topic is "Evolution and Inheritance". The children will aim to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. We will discuss how living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. They children will identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
Computing	We will use Purple Mash resources to evaluate and build on children's coding skills. The children will revise and consolidate their knowledge of objects, actions and events; use repeat, if and if/else statements when coding and creating. Later in the

	half term, we will move on to look at spreadsheets. The children will use and consolidate their current knowledge, modelling real life simulations and exploring probability.
Geography	During our topic lessons this half term, Mrs Williams will look at the Geography unit 'United Kingdom'. In this unit, the children will investigate what the unique differences are between each of the UK's countries, the physical features of the UK, how humans change the UK's landscape, how the UK produces its energy and the advantages and disadvantages of each of these methods. The topic will encourage investigation, broadening of the children's geographical vocabulary and debating of the issues affecting the UK.
PHSCE	Our first few PSHE lessons will focus on road safety and avoiding distractions in order to keep safe. We will then move onto celebrating differences. During this unit, the children will consider that there are different perspectives about what 'normal' means. We will begin to think about how being 'different' can affect people's lives and look at how people are sometimes treated badly or excluded because they are seen as 'different'. We will discuss the term 'bullying' and consider reasons why some people might use bullying behaviours. We will also discuss strategies for managing feelings and find out about people with disabilities, who lead amazing lives. We will begin to explain how differences can be a source of conflict and also a source of celebration.
DT	The children will look at circuits and make a 'light up' Christmas decoration. They will experiment with and create their own designs to individualise their Christmas decoration; add in their own electrical circuits and make and evaluate their work, ready for Christmas! This will help them prepare for their science topic on electricity later in the year.
RE	In RE we are thinking about incarnation. We will be re-enacting the transfiguration and translating artwork into words. We will think about the term 'peace maker' and consider what this means. We will be creating posters advertising child sponsorship; we will conclude by debating the question "Does the world need a messiah?"
Music	We will be very busy preparing for our Junior Christmas Productions during our music sessions this half term. We look forward to welcoming you in to school to watch the Junior Production on Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th December.

Home Learning

Home learning will usually be set via Google Classroom and MyMaths.co.uk. It will usually consist of a literacy task and a maths task. Home-learning will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by **the following Wednesday**.

In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with TT Rockstars on a regular basis. Regular practise of timetable and division facts up to x12 is essential.

Spelling

As mentioned in an email sent on Monday 4th November, we are excited to be launching a new spelling scheme this half term, called Spelling Shed. It is research-backed and comes highly recommended. Evidence-based research has shown that memorising lists of spellings is not beneficial and children often find it hard to apply these to their everyday written work. For this reason, children will no longer be set weekly spelling lists to memorise and then be tested on. Instead, children will be set online spelling 'assignments' each week, which will link to the teaching and learning in class of specific words and spelling rules. Your child will be coming home with login details for Spelling Shed this week. Please refer to the email sent for more information. We hope

your child enjoys using Spelling Shed. These will be set on a **Wednesday**, to allow for more time to practise. Like home learning, they are due in **the following Wednesday**.

Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning at home, is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read with your child and discuss what they have read. Whilst reading, it would be great if you could encourage your child to make **predictions** and **ask questions** about the text. Try to help them identify unfamiliar words and **clarify** meaning, and encourage them to **summarise** a paragraph or page that they have just read. These strategies will help to support their developing comprehension skills.

P.E.

We will be having a coach-led PE session on **Friday** afternoons. We will be using our Wednesday afternoons to rehearse for our Christmas play. Children are still welcome to be comfortable for these rehearsals and wear PE kit on Wednesdays, including their leavers hoodies.

Please ensure all long hair is tied back.

What will my child need in school?

- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/water-proof coat
- **Named** water bottle (water fountains are not in use). Children can refill bottles in school
- Children can bring in a rucksack/backpack to carry packed lunches / school resources
- Your child will need a pencil case **containing: pencil, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils and a small glue stick**
- Small packet of tissues.
We would also welcome any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the class team via the School Office email or leave a message / note with the senior member of staff on gate duty in the morning.

The Year 6 Class Team