

To the parents of children in Year 6,

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Below are the details of the work to be covered by Year 6 during this term. Further information will be posted on the website during the term, along with photographs of the children 'in action' so we encourage you to visit our 'School photos' section regularly.

Our theme for this term is 'Journey to the Unknown' and we intend to link the children's learning through this theme where possible. An overview of the theme links is available in PDF form on the website, in the Year 6 section of 'Year groups'.

Events we have planned:

- Charity week: Year 6 children will design, make and run games for the rest of the school to play in order to raise money for charity during the week beginning 28th January.
- March 1st is Allocation day. You will be informed of the Secondary School your child has been allocated on this day if you applied online, or soon after that by post if you did not submit your application online. We will send further details nearer the time.
- Viking Day: On March 14th, we will take part in a variety of Viking activities led by Viking visitors. The morning will be an interactive presentation of Viking life and the afternoon will be a series of Viking related crafts. The approximate cost of the day will be £8. In order to assume the character of a Viking, we would like the children to come in 'Viking clothes' on that day. We will send further details nearer the time.

Literacy



The children will continue to study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in Literacy. Using the knowledge they learn in history lessons, they will plan, write and redraft texts such as persuasive and non-chronological writing, linked to a Viking theme; for example, writing a letter to persuade the evil Viking, Martin the Merciless, NOT to invade their humble Saxon village. As part of their spelling work, the children will have the opportunity to reflect on and revise spellings in addition to learning new patterns and rules. They will also continue to review the Year 6 statutory spellings.

They will read a range of texts, developing their key comprehension skills of inference and deduction in preparation for their Reading SAT. During Guided Reading sessions, they will also be reading Michael Morpurgo's novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and completing tasks linked to the story; for example a discussion text balancing the *pros* and *cons* of an issue.

Towards the end of this term, we will be using a variety of past SAT writing tasks and reading test papers to prepare the children for the SATs in May. We will keep you informed of your child's progress at Parents' Evening during the week beginning 18th March.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, the children will further develop their use of the written methods for the four operations and how the strategies learned can be applied to a variety of problem solving activities. They will cover work on concepts such as shape and space, measures, algebra, data handling, decimals, and percentages. Mental calculations will continue to play a large part in the daily maths lesson, and your child should continue to practise their times tables and associated facts if they are not quick at recalling these. Regular use at home of 'Time Tables Rock Stars' will greatly help with their rapid recall of multiplication and division facts. We will regularly practise the techniques involved in answering SAT questions, in preparation for the tests in May. SAT maths test consists of one arithmetic test then two reasoning tests (which test all areas of maths). Again, we will keep you updated on their progress.

Science

We will be learning about the body's biological systems such as the circulatory system. The children will also learn about the effect of different lifestyles on the body, for example, the effect of both good and bad nutrition and how the transportation of nutrients occurs within the body. During our lessons, children will be using their knowledge to plan and execute their own investigations.

IT

IT will be used to enhance learning in all aspects of the curriculum. The specific skills needed to use spreadsheets will be taught, and the children will use these to monitor the money they raise during our Charity Week. After our visit from 'the Vikings', the children will be using Photostory to create a multimedia presentation of their experience. Whilst reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom', the children will digitally map the journey which was taken by the characters. In addition, they develop their understanding of coding and programming: they will continue to design, write and debug programs that operate systems or computer mimics.

History and Geography



As the main focus of our theme, the children will be studying life in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon times. We will begin by learning about the changes to the internal structure of our country at this time, and discover how 'England' began. From there, we will learn more about life at that time from artefacts and sources. In addition, we will research how religious opinion changed, with a focus on the monasteries in England. During the Anglo-Saxon times, invasions from groups such as 'The Vikings' changed our country too; we will study the Vikings as raiders, traders and settlers. Focusing on the Viking era, we will be looking at where the Vikings came from, how they travelled, lived and worked; and which Gods they worshipped. Children will study the routes of the Vikings as raiders, traders and settlers around Europe; and investigate the effect that the Viking battles had on the boundaries of our country. From looking at artefacts and evidence from archaeologists, we aim for the children to appreciate how historians draw conclusions about the past. Finally we will investigate how Viking rule was ended in Britain as a result of the Norman Invasion.

Art

The children will work with a variety of media to extend their art skills. Linked to our topic, the children will create Illuminated Letters similar to those that monks would have produced, and watercolour artwork inspired by the descriptions in 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. They will also further develop their skills when using clay to create Viking inspired pots and jewellery.

PSHE / RE

We will learn about the beliefs of Judaism this term. Later in the term, we will explore the events of Easter. Through our circle time sessions we will explore issues which impact on the children, beginning with internet safety, as well as our assembly themes such as determination and accepting others.

Music

In the spring term, we will revisit various forms of notation and develop an understanding of the process of composing by creating and performing music. They will also explore how they feel about music they hear, learning to further understand and express their musical preferences.



Languages

The children will continue to develop their language skills in French this term. They will consolidate their basic conversational skills and develop their understanding of the written language.

PE and Games

Year 6 will have their games sessions each Wednesday afternoon, during which they will develop their skills in a range of team games, such as football and basketball. They will also have sessions of PE in which they will develop their skills in gymnastics and dance.

SATs

Preparation for the SATs will form an important part of our work this term, although the actual tests will take place during the week commencing 13th May. We will send details of the exact test times and ask parents to avoid making dental or doctors' appointments, where possible, during these times.

The children will receive homework each week, details of which will be in their homework diaries. Please could you ensure that they have their diaries in school on a Friday. Having checked that their homework is complete each week, please sign their diary. We encourage the children to hand in their homework on a Monday or Tuesday, so if there are any problems, they can come and ask us for help before it is due in on a Wednesday. Details of the Golden Time they keep each week will be written in their diaries on a Friday. Please facilitate at least three weekly sessions for your child to read their School Reading Book, as well as any other books which they are enjoying. Their reading book and journal should be in school every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We hope that you find this information useful and we encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns about your child.

Mrs Spivey, Miss Price and Mrs McIlveen.