

**Year 6  
Parent Curriculum Letter  
Spring Term 2019**



Welcome back. We trust you had a restful holiday and the whole Year Six team would like to thank you all for your very kind Christmas gifts.

<b>English</b>	Our focus for English will be to continue encouraging enthusiasm and enjoyment of writing by using a range of engaging stimuli. During the first half term, we will be focusing on different genres of writing, initially creating a dramatic TV news report about the Japanese earthquake in 2011 using the Spark Voice App, then writing and performing an inspiring speech delivered by a sports coach, a review of their favourite film and finishing with a 2-week unit on writing a complaint letter. After half term our focus will shift back to narrative writing when all the children will take part in the Radio 2 500-word short story competition. Next, the children will produce two pieces of writing linked to their new topic on the Mayans. As a civilization, the Mayans drank a lot of hot chocolate so for their first piece, the children will write a mini explanation about how cocoa is produced and delivered to factories around the world. There will even be a tasting session along the way! For our final piece of the term, the children will write a persuasive speech about what should happen to a plot of land within Central America. After the writing is finished, each class will take part in a debate. It important that a range of texts continue to be read at home but it would be particularly useful if pupils could be encouraged to read the genre we are focusing on at school as this will enhance their understanding further.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Maths lessons will continue in the same format as the Autumn Term. Topic areas that will be covered include place value, multiplication and division, decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions, fractions, ratio and proportion, mental and written addition and subtraction, measurement, geometry, statistics, problem solving, reasoning and algebra. A weekly homework will be set linked to the Maths focus that week.
<b>Science</b>	The next topic will be extending the children's understanding of animals with a focus on humans and the structure of the heart and lungs. As part of this they will learn about the double circulation through the lungs and the rest of the body to learn more about blood. Consideration will be given to how exercise affects pulse rate, why exercise is good for us and what can harm the heart and lungs.
<b>Computing</b>	The children will begin this term by presenting their APP 'pitch' to Mr Boulton. They will then begin to consider the steps involved in creating and marketing. Each group will create a survey to develop their understanding of their buyers needs and these will be filled in by other children in KS2 to generate data that can be interpreted. After half term, the children will continue to develop their app designs in light of the surveys completed and the data they generated from responses. They will also use existing apps to refine their ideas and ensure that their APP is of the best possible quality.
<b>P.S.H.E.</b>	This term the children will be focusing on developing their resilience. We will be using examples from the Football Premier League to help the children understand how to bounce back from perceived failure and setbacks, and to recognise the power of positive thinking. The children will also be undertaking two workshops related to health and safety. The first one is a 'Distractions' workshop run by the HCC. The purpose will be to encourage the children to take care when using their mobile phones in public places. The second workshop, after half-term, is a visit to the St Albans fire station where the children will take part in a series of workshops raising awareness about basic first aid, electrical safety, anti-social behaviour and cyberbullying.
<b>Topic</b>	We will be launching our Mayan civilization topic with a visit from Mexicolore - an interactive workshop full of singing, dancing chanting and dressing-up. Throughout the topic, the children will raise their own historical questions to investigate further which will enable them to learn about the Mayan way of life, their achievements and mysterious disappearance.
<b>Art Design &amp; Technology</b>	In the first half term, we will be using a range of mixed media to create images and impressions of natural disasters. After half term, the children will be looking at a variety of artwork as part of our topic leading onto a final piece of work which will reflect the Mayan culture and beliefs. This will take the form of clay jewelry.
<b>P.E.</b>	The children will be developing their gymnastic/dance skills which will be incorporated into a final presentation. Our netball/benchball unit will see the children developing their ability to work within teams, throw accurately, gain and keep possession of a ball and play within the parameters of the rules of the game.
<b>R.E</b>	We will be investigating the Buddhist faith, beliefs, religious stories and their significance and the ways this religion shapes the lives of its believers. We will also explore the way prayer is used as part of their worship, the importance of community and the way they live in the wider world.
<b>Music</b>	This term we will be focusing on song writing which will allow opportunities for the children to develop, compose, perform, review and evaluate repeated rhythms. 'The Band Garage App' will be used to support this project.
<b>French</b>	In the first half term we will further develop the skills of listening and speaking and reading and writing. Our work includes Epiphany, spelling phrase of the week, writing a paragraph about myself, learning some daily routines phrases, becoming familiar with the verbs avoir and être, Storytelling week and ICT research about a French-speaking country. After half-term our work will include further work on daily routines, the verb être and learning phrases about feeling unwell. Lessons will include response to pupil feedback, Fairtrade week, links to Mexico and the Mayans, listening to clips, singing songs and learning an ice-cream shop dialogue.