



## Class 6 Autumn 1 Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Class 6! I hope that you've had a lovely summer. It has been so lovely having the children all back together in school and getting to know them. We are certainly going to have a busy week as we get back into routine but I know that they'll naturally just settle back into school life. They already seem to be super enthusiastic towards the new responsibilities which have been introduced now they are the oldest in the school! The children all seem to be super excited for the year ahead which is great to see! Not only this, but they are also showing a real willingness to learn and succeed which is excellent and exactly what I was hoping for. We really do have what will be a brilliant and memorable year ahead of us with lots of new, fascinating topics to explore.

The aim of this newsletter is to give you an insight into what we will be learning about this term in each curriculum area, as well as giving you any further key information. Please let me know if you have any further questions and remember that my door is always open. I am always very happy to help. 😊

On Wednesdays 1.15pm - 3.40pm, I will spend time out of the classroom (PPA) and therefore the children will be taught by Mr Mac.

### General information

Please ensure that your child brings water in a labelled reusable drinks bottle and that they have a healthy snack for morning break and/or afternoon break. If they bring it in a snack pot, please ensure these are named. No crisps, chocolate, sweets or snacks containing nuts! Alternatively, we have now launched our new 'Mid-Morning Snack' range which is available daily during morning break time for all children. One snack item is available each day and can be paid for on Parent Pay. All items are 50p.

Please ensure sure all items of clothing - especially jumpers, cardigans and coats - are named.

**SPELLINGS:** Every Monday, I will upload a new list of ten spellings on Viva Engage which the children are to spend the week practicing ahead of their test on the following Monday. Time in school will be spent examining different aspects of the words such as the number of syllables, tricky sounds and the morphology, however it is still advised, in order to complement the work we have done in school, that they spend time at home practicing. I strongly advise them to use Spelling Shed to practice their spellings! Logins are stuck in the back of the children's reading records. This can be downloaded from the App store for a one-off payment of £2.99 or for free via the web browser.

**READING:** It is expected that the children do at least four reads per week with an adult. I understand that by this age your child may be able to read independently but there is a massive benefit from reading with adults, so I encourage this as much as possible. You could ask them questions about the characters' feelings and actions and why they are doing things; you could tell them what words and phrases mean and even ask them to predict what might happen next! These are the kind of skills which the children need for comprehension tasks and assessments. Each time your child reads at home, please record this in their reading record. I will be checking the four reads on a Monday. Can your child reach 100, 200 or even 300 reads before the end of the year?

**MATHS PRACTICE JOURNAL:** For children in Year 6, we have provided each child with a Maths Practice Journal. The children will be required to complete several pages for their homework each week. The work the children need to complete complements what they have been taught in class that week. Completion of this home learning will therefore solidify that knowledge. Children will be set the homework task on a Monday. They are required to bring the book with the completed pages back in on the following Monday. We will then spend time going through the answers and, if needs be, discuss any misunderstandings the children have.



**PE:** This half term PE sessions will be on a Thursday and Friday. One of these sessions will be delivered by our specialised PE coaches and the other by myself. Please could children with long hair bring bobbles, or preferably, have their hair tied back on these days. With earrings, if the children cannot remove them for themselves, could they kindly not wear them on PE days. If this is not possible, please could you send in tape/plasters for the children to wear over the earrings for the session.



For the first week of this academic year, the whole school is focusing on 'In Our Hands' by Lucy Farfort - a timeless fable which is sure to entrance and empower in equal measure. In Class 6, we have begun by having lots of class discussions about what we can predict and infer from the illustrations. As we continue to work through the text, there will be various reading and writing opportunities. PSHE and art lessons will also be closely linked with this text during the first week.

Our topic for Autumn 1 is 'World War II'.

**English (reading):** Within our reading lessons this half-term, we will be focusing on the text, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll - a narrative set during World War II that is wrapped in mystery, secrecy and suspense. When Sukie goes missing, her brother and sister embark on a remarkable journey to find her. The children are evacuated from London to the countryside and it's there where young Olive and her brother Cliff will plunge into a mysterious rollercoaster of an adventure to be reunited with their sister. Twists, turns, coded messages and conflicts prevail in this beautifully pitched story that provides a fine balance between sensitivity and adventure. The lessons will provide ample opportunities for the children to develop their comprehension skills.

**English (writing):** Within these lessons this half-term, the children will be writing a setting description with a purpose of entertaining. Following that, they will be writing a letter with a purpose of informing. Discreet grammar and punctuations will be taught during the lessons building up to writing these.

**Maths:** Within our maths lessons, we will be following the White Rose Maths scheme. Key mathematical concepts covered this half-term include place value and addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Children will also be given plenty of opportunities to develop their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

**History:** The lives of children during World War II will be the focus of our topic in history this half-term. With this focus, the children will learn why and when WW2 began - including which countries and world leaders were involved; why children were evacuated during WW2 and what life was like for evacuees; what life was like on the home front; about the Holocaust and the impact it had; and when the war ended and why Germany lost.

**Science:** In science this half term, we will be investigating light and learning about how our eyes work. This will be tremendously interesting with the opportunity for lots of scientific investigation and enquiries.

**Design and Technology:** This half-term, children will learn about the restrictions that were placed upon people and their diets during the war because of rationing. They will discover how wartime families were creative with the ingredients they could obtain and made many different recipes to use every bit of food they had and not let anything go to waste. The children will try make dishes following their own recipe, evaluating the dishes after making them.

**RE:** This half-term Class 6's RE topic is 'Beliefs in action in the world'. The big question is 'What was the Kindertransport?' A key part of RE will be giving children the chance to reflect, pose and answer



interesting and thoughtful questions. We will explore some Bible stories and consider how these can be applied to our own lives.

**PSHE:** This half-term within PSHE we will be focusing on families and relationships. More specifically, we will be learning about respect, stereotypes, conflict and grief.

**Music:** Our music unit this half-term is called 'Songs of World War 2' and will provide the children opportunities to listen to songs which were popular during WWII. They will be required to use musical and comparative language in discussion; follow the melody line; follow the scores with a good sense of timing; show that they understand which section of pitch they are singing; sing the correct words at the correct time; and to recall the counter-melody line.

**French:** During the first few lessons pupils will learn a selection of the key phonemes to facilitate accurate and authentic pronunciation as part of their language learning experience. Pupils will then be taught the knowledge and skills to present themselves both orally and in written form in French. This is one of the first units where previously learnt language will be integrated with newly acquired language, encouraging all pupils to use their growing bank of vocabulary. In this unit pupils focus on asking questions as well as providing accurate replies. They will demonstrate a growing understanding of grammar to manipulate language and start to create sentences of their own using a range of personal details including name, age, where they live and nationality.

**PE:** The PE unit taught by myself this half-term will involve the children exploring the different components of fitness and then developing an understanding of how they could improve each of these. The PE unit taught by specialist sports coaches from Grade A Sports will be basketball. Time during these sessions will be spent teaching the children the knowledge and skills required to play basketball.

I hope that this letter has been informative and gives you an overview of what we are planning to do during Autumn 1. Keep an eye out for further information on the whole school newsletters but please let me know if you have any further questions and I will be more than happy to help.

Kind regards,

*Miss Whittaker*