

Upper KS2 Half Term Curriculum Overview

Year 6 2015/2016 - Spring 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays. I sincerely hope that you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you a happy and healthy new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind gifts, cards and messages. I was once again overwhelmed by your generosity. For this half term I am pleased to provide you with information about what the children will be covering in the different subjects. We are continuing with the new curriculum this academic year. If you wish to know more about it visit the DfE website, the school website or speak with me.

Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be introducing again our class masses. Each Tuesday two classes will join with the parish to celebrate Mass at 9am. Year 6 and Reception, Year 5 and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 2 and Year 4 will join the parish. Please look out for dates on the weekly newsletter or on the school website.

Each day the children will take part in collective worship. Whole school collective worship begins our week every Monday, followed by class collective worships led by the teachers and children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Fridays there is a key stage assembly.

The Wednesday Word is available for every child to take home every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. Additional copies are available at the school office.

Also this term the children will be involved in charity work during Lent. We will be taking part in fundraising activities and raising awareness of local charities through the Good Shepherd Appeal for Nugent Care. We will also be raising funds for 'Mission Together' which supports international charity work.

Healthy School Initiative

As part of the healthy school initiative, we will continue to encourage the children to be active at playtimes. Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day; therefore it is important that the children have their bottles in everyday! It makes it easier for the children if the bottles have a sports top, as it would prevent any unnecessary spillage.

Healthy snack days will continue to be Monday to Friday and the children will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes.

Information and dates to remember:

Fri 8 Jan - Bishop Tom visits the school
Tues 9 Feb - Parents' evening 3.30-6pm
(school closes at 3pm)
Wed 10 Feb - Ash Wednesday Mass
Thur 11 Feb - Parents' evening 5.30-8pm
Fri 12 Feb - End of half term

Homework information

- **English homework** will be given out on a Friday and is to be handed in the following Tuesday.

- **Spellings** will be given out on a Tuesday and tested the following Monday, in addition to a focus on the children embedding their spellings into their written work and working in their Spelling Logs.

- **Maths homework** will be given out on a Tuesday and is to be handed in on Friday of the same week.

- **Reading** Each child should read for a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete their reading records.

Concerns and messages

If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see me at the end of the school day.

Any messages in the morning must be left with a Teaching Assistant on the Junior gate and they will be passed directly to me that morning.

Year 6
General Class
Information

Big Maths

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Big Maths' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their Big Maths files in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will continue to split into smaller groups and work with a Big Maths teacher once a week.

Please encourage your child to use their Maths skills at every opportunity.

Remember we are going for green!

Reading

In line with our school policy the children will develop their reading in class throughout the week through shared reading and guided reading sessions and I shall be monitoring their reading progress carefully each week with my own records.

The reading records are for parents to record your child's reading at home. We ask all our children to read for 15 minutes each night. Although I will be keeping my own record of your child's reading progress it would be really helpful if you could make comments in your child's reading record book each time they read, to let me know how they have coped with a book at home. Our class reader for this half term is, 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde.

Home reading records are checked and once a week their home reading is acknowledged and a target will be highlighted in the book.

If your child reads any other reading material as well as their reading book from school please also make a note of it in their reading record. The home reading record is also a good way to make contact with me if you wish to send me a message and cannot get into school.

This year as part of our new 3 year Improvement Plan, we are particularly focusing on 'Reading'. As well as our reading activities in class, we ask that in addition to hearing your child read, you share books and read to them and explore the pleasure of reading with your child.

The school continues to run an early doors reading club (£2) 8am - 8:45am each morning. Open to all!

Grammar Hammer

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Grammar Hammer' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their SPAG folders (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will be focusing on one grammar aspect each week.

Please encourage your child to use their folders to practise different areas of grammar at every opportunity.

RE - Spring term topics**Sources**

The children will learn how to find access and identify stories from the Bible.

Unity

This topic will allow the children to learn about 'Unity' and how friendship can nourish unity. We will focus upon the invitation of Jesus, to live in communion with him and with one another.

English**Reading**

The children will be reading for pleasure within their special reading time in class. In addition a variety of texts (Fiction and non-fiction) will be read within guided and shared reading where the children will be taught the following skills:

- how to refer to the text to support their opinions and predictions
- how to identify the main ideas from a paragraph
- how to give their point of view about vocabulary and text structure
- how to distinguish between fact and opinion
- how to appreciate how an author has arranged sentences to create maximum effect and create a particular effect
- how to drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- how to identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning
- how to skim and scan texts
- how to respond to different types of question from a given text (Fiction and non-fiction texts)

Writing

The children will continue to develop their writing skills. They will produce: narratives, non-chronological reports, explanation texts, persuasive texts and diary entries. They will plan, draft and edit their writing using a dictionary and thesaurus.

Grammar and punctuation

The children will learn how to:

- use and punctuate direct and reported speech and know the difference between the two
- use commas to clarify meaning and avoid ambiguity
- use brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis

Spelling

The children will revise how to spell the words on the Years 5-6 word list. They will also learn how to spell words ending in -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency, -able and -ible and also words ending in -ably and -ibly.

Science Evolution and Inheritance

- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and the adaptation may lead to evolution.

Mathematics**Number - number and place value**

-Read and write numbers up to 10 000.

Addition and Subtraction

- Formal written methods of addition and subtraction.

Multiplication and division

- Revise multiplication tables.

- Revise long multiplication and division.

Fractions

- Revise equivalent fractions.

- Convert proper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa.

- Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators

Measurement

- Find shapes that have the same perimeter but a different area.

- Calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles.

- Use formulae for area and volume.

Geometry - properties of shapes

- Make the nets for 3D shapes and use these to build the shapes.

- Find unknown angles in triangles, quadrilaterals and regular polygons.

- Find unknown angles at a point, on a straight line, vertically opposite.

- Use co-ordinates in all four quadrants.

History

During this half term the children will study the Vikings.

They will understand that the history of Britain is a chronological narrative.

They will be able to place the Viking invasions on a timeline.

They will develop an understanding of where the Vikings came from and why they wanted to invade Britain.

They will learn about the Viking beliefs and how they were similar and different to the Anglo Saxon beliefs.

They will use historical evidence to find out about Viking raids.

They will find out how some of the kings of Britain dealt with the Vikings.

PEDynamic balance to agility and social skills

This half term the children will be working on dynamic balance to agility and developing their social skills.

They will do this by:

- learning different jumps and landings
- turning in jumps
- balancing
- praising other children
- showing patience to support other children.

They will develop these skills through skills based activities, competitive games and ball games.

Rugby with Warrington Wolves

During this half term the children will develop their rugby skills.

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE in school (blue shorts, white t-shirt, pumps and trainers).

PSHCE

The children will:

- learn about Healthy Lifestyles and develop an awareness of a balanced diet
- learn about E-safety
- take part in Anti-bullying activities
- have a puberty talk

Topic Title

**Were the Vikings
always victorious and
vicious?**

Computing

This half term we will be using the computer suite to:

- read books online and partake in comprehension quizzes
- complete mathematical challenges on Mathletics and Sumdog
- use search engines and sites to learn about the Vikings
- create a power point about the Vikings

Geography

During this half term the children will develop their mapping skills.

They will use the eight points of a compass, four and six figure grid references, symbols and keys (including the use of Ordnance Survey Maps) to develop their knowledge of the UK.

DT

- To select and justify why they selected materials for the product.
- To use tools and equipment precisely.
- To change the way they are working if needs be.
- To create a design to meet set requirements and justify their plan to someone else.
- To work within constraints.
- To describe a design using labels.
- To know how to change and improve their design for the better.

Music

During this term the children will use the 'Charanga' Music Programme to develop their knowledge of pitch, duration, dynamics and tempo, timbre, texture, structure and musical notation. They will also be learning to play several pieces of music on their ocarinas.