

Upper KS2 Half Termly Curriculum Overview

Year 6 2015/2016 - Spring 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half break. We hope you enjoyed the break and are looking forward to a fun term. For this half term we are 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 us.

Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be continuing with our class masses. Each Friday 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:

Thurs 18th March - E-safety talk for parents in the hall at 9am, with PC Jeff Mather
Tues 22nd March - Passion play at 2pm
Thurs 24th March - INSET Day (School closed for pupils)
Tues 29th March - School open
Fri 2nd April - End of half term break
Tues 12th April - school opens

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**Unity**

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

Death and New Life

This topic looks at how loss and death bring about change for people. It also looks at the Church's seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter and how the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus led to new life.

Science Light

- Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines.
- To use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.
- To explain that we see things because light travels from light source to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
- To use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

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:

- Refer to the text to support opinions and predictions
- Asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- Identifying the main ideas from one paragraph
- Give their point of view about vocabulary and text structure
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Appreciate how an author has arranged sentences to create maximum effect and create a particular effect
- Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- Identifying 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

- 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 -

Revise how to spell the words on the Years 5-6 word list. Learn how to spell words ending in -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency, -able and -ible and also words ending in -ably and -ibly.

Mathematics**Number - number and place value**

-Read and write numbers up to 10 000.

Addition and Subtraction

- Formal written methods of addition and subtraction.
- Application of the above skills in problem solving.

Multiplication and division

- Revise multiplication tables.
- Revise long multiplication and division.

Fractions

- Revise equivalent fractions.
- Converting 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 3D shapes, recognise them different orientations and describe them.
- 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.

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

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.

Topic Title

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

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.

PE

Static Balance

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

They will do this by:

- performing sequences with clear shapes and controlled movement
- by linking actions together so that they flow in running, jumping and throwing activities
- co-operating with others and giving positive feedback

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

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.

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.