

Upper KS2 Half Termly Curriculum Overview

Year 6 - 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. Please read about the core subjects, end of year expectations and the topic map for this term.

Catholic life of the school

On a Monday, we start the week by gathering together to reflect on the week ahead and pray together as a whole school and on Wednesday we come together as a key stage, in assembly.

In class the children will continue to plan and lead Collective Worship on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Each Thursday at 3pm, we hold a Celebration Assembly, when we celebrate the achievements of children from each class with parents, family and friends.

The children will also attend Mass as a whole school, as well as having the opportunity to have a class Mass either in Church or in their classrooms, or with their prayer buddy class.

The Wednesday Word is available for each 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.

Prayer bags will change from the green 'ordinary time' to the purple Lenten bags, giving families an opportunity to pray together during the time leading up to Easter.

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

January:

Thurs 4 Start of Spring Term for children
Fri 5 Key Stage 1 trip to the Pantomime, Parr Hall
Tue 16 SATs meeting for year 2 and year 6 parents at 3.40pm & 5pm
Thurs 25 Reception Rejoice Assembly at 9am

February:

Thurs 8 Movie Night 3.30-5.45pm
Wed 14 Ash Wednesday Service
Wed 14 Parents' evening 3-5.30pm
Thurs 15 Parents' evening 5.30-8pm
Fri 16 School closes for half term at 3.30pm.

Homework

Spellings: we will continue to learn our spellings focusing on children's ability to spell unsighted words. Year 6 also have the Spring Term spellings which will be tested each Monday. These can be found in the SPaG folders.

Maths homework: Tuesday - Friday on line "My Maths" or Maths revision.

Science: Wednesday- Wednesday revision work.

Literacy homework: will be given out on a Thursday and due back Tuesday.

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.

We will also be continuing to focus on learning our times tables thoroughly up to 16 x 16 and be rewarding with bronze, silver and gold stickers on our tables charts.

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. Our class reader for this half term will be 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare.

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. Home reading records are checked every day and home reading is acknowledged with positive comments and stickers.

We have purchased a lot of new reading resources throughout the school, in particular the banded home readers. I will be checking weekly and guiding your child's choice of reading book and changing them as necessary.

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.

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.

Grammar Hammer

The children will continue to complete a 'Grammar Hammer' assessment every two weeks 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 different grammar aspects each week.

The children will also be focusing on incorporating their grammar knowledge within their own writing and demonstrating good use of spelling knowledge. Continual writing assessments will focus upon: neat joined handwriting, grammar within writing, spellings and knowledge of different writing genres.

Please encourage your child to use their folders to practise the areas of Grammar at every opportunity.



RE - Autumn 2 term topics**Sources**

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

Unity

The children will 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.

Please read the RE newsletter on the school website to find out more information.

English**Reading**

The children will be reading for pleasure within their special reading time in class. In addition to 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 draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions and justifying inferences with evidence.
- 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 the Year 6 word-list in their reading records. They will also learn new stage 6 & 7 spellings.

Science

Revision of topics: Living things and their habitats Animals, including humans and Evolution & inheritance.

In addition to learning about 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.

Mathematics**Number - Number and Place Value**

-Read and write numbers up to 1,000 000.

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.

Year 6 Spring 1 Topic Map

PE Indoor and Outdoor

Please ensure that your child has the correct PE in school.

Indoor kit -blue shorts, white t-shirt and black pumps.

'Real' Gymnastics - Tuesdays: The children will be taught in association with Progressive Sports during this half term, where the children will develop their core skills.

'Clubercise' - Wednesdays... We shall take part in a new initiative of dance related exercise.
(Clean trainers will be required)

Art/ DT

Drawing/Painting

Throughout the topic of a Sense of Place – the local area geography link of waterways and architecture, the children will:

- Use a variety of media to sketch, represent light, shade, form, pattern and texture in a range of drawing work using different marks and lines to add texture.

PSHE

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.

Topic Title

To be or not to be?

Computing

- Algorithms and programs.
- Using the Internet safely.
- Revision web sites

Geography

Maps

Physical geography including climate zones and rivers interlinked with mapping skills using 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.

Why does the Weir no longer flood?

Children will be able to describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including climate zones and rivers; describe and understand key aspects of human geography.

These will include: types of settlement and land use, economic activity, trade links and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Music

During this term the children will use the 'Charanga' Music Program 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 percussion.