

## Curriculum Newsletter

### Spring Term ~ Year 5 & 6

So that you feel clear about the teaching and learning intentions for the Spring Term 2019 please enjoy reading this overview. If you have any skills, resources or experiences that you could share with us on this topic, we would love for you to share them.

This term the children will undertake a humanitarian project, finding out about the role of relief agencies. In geography, they will find out about the imaginary lines that divide planet Earth into hemispheres and within these areas how extreme climates can be experienced: the hottest, coldest, wettest and driest places will be located and research undertaken into how communities survive such wildly opposing temperatures and living conditions. The weather is a truly British subject to talk about, and we'll certainly be doing just that! Natural weather related disasters will be investigated, from earthquakes to tsunamis, storms to volcanic eruptions, blizzards to flooding and this is where the compassion will fit in, with the children looking at how lives are affected when disaster strikes and the world's response to help; third world countries, who suffer greatly when a natural calamity occurs, will be a primary focus.

In art, Japanese artist Hokusai's, 'The Great Wave of Kanagawa' will be studied and they, like him, use patterns and colours found in weather systems to create a three dimensional composition. The children will study and emulate the work of British painters Turner and Heaton-Cooper, both renowned for their atmospheric use of colour to capture inclement weather.

Numeracy will again focus on the children aiming for fluency in taught concepts, with over-learning and application of skills within the four rules of number. Reasoning and problem solving will be integral, as well as connections being made between different areas of maths. Real life opportunities will be presented to enable taught skills to be applied, taking the children and their maths into 'real' but 'out of the norm' situations. Theme maths will see them learn and renew their knowledge of algebra, shape, measure, area and perimeter, volume and ratio. Where possible, maths will be linked to our project. Everyday arithmetic skills will be supported through Fluent in Five, a daily challenge that builds up mental and written calculation strategies.

Literacy work will be initially linked to science, where explanations will be written about the Earth in space, moving to poetry, with a poem by ST Coleridge, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' being read. Poems that reflect the changing nature of the seasons and weather extremities will be described and set to music, where percussion instruments will provide sound effects. Discussion on how human activity is having a big impact on the environment will provide an opening for debate and far reaching, contrasting settings, will enable descriptive writing. The class will read 'The Storm Keeper's Island' by Catherine Doyle and this text will provide opportunities for the children to practice their reading and comprehension skills.

Physical Science investigations will explore the solar system, Earth's relationship with the Moon and the Sun, how we get day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun. Light and shadows will naturally link with this focus. Biological science will look at how we can keep ourselves fit and healthy to live fulfilled lives, in particular studies of the various systems that make our body tick!

Computing skills will be integrated through the project and homework tasks, with specific skills taught weekly. PSHE will explore ethical trading and climate change.

Our RE this year embraces the new Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus and will explore a big idea based on 'Being Human' through Christianity.

In PE, the children will undertake tag rugby and archery, followed by basketball/netball and fencing provided by MSP. Classes 3 and 4 will get together to play inter-house mini competitions throughout the term. Personal challenges will also be set and worked towards.

The children will once again form a company that will specialize in their response to a natural disaster. The client this time will be a notable charity such as the Disaster Emergency Committee or the British Red Cross. Role play will feature as scenarios are dramatized and reactions rehearsed.

Mrs Johnstone

#### Homework:

The whole school follows the same format focusing on two key strands: a READING book and a HOMEWORK book.

We would like to see reading happen as regularly as possible and homework will be sent on FRIDAY, to be returned the following WEDNESDAY.

Any task set should last approximately 20 minutes per subject area – let us know if there is anything you need to help with this.

#### Messages:

P.E will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Please consider kit appropriate to the weather.

Please ensure that your child has a labelled kit that can be kept in school. We appreciate that you may want to check this over or give it a wash, but please make sure that it is in school for the full week.

Please ensure also that all uniform, coats and accessories are labelled with your child's name. Thank you