

Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term ~ Year 5&6

So that you feel clear about the teaching and learning intentions for the Autumn Term 2018 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 history project looking at the earliest ruling dynasty to be recorded in China; the Shang Dynasty. The Shang ruled from 1700 to 1027 BC and were known for their advances in maths, astronomy, artwork and military technology. In History they will find identify the features of the Shang Dynasty of China and explain how we know about it, discuss the evidence surrounding the Shang kings and how they were buried, question what ordinary life was like for people, examine the meaning behind early writing and calendars and summarise why the Shang Dynasty ended. Shang settlements along the Yellow River and modern day China will also be studied through Geography, in particular the human impact on China's physical geography, China's economic growth and its effect on the country, the famous tourist attractions of the region and cultural comparisons with the UK. Two texts will be read that have historical connections with the area, 'The Firework Makers Daughter' by Phillip Pullman and 'The Kite Rider' by Geraldine McCaughrean, both will be used to enhance inference and deduction skills in reading comprehension.

The art of papermaking and printing (both inventions of the Chinese) will be integrated in to project time, as the children become both a learning community and a team in action. DT will provide an opportunity to taste a Chinese dish, then design and make one; chop stick skills will be tested!

Numeracy will focus on the children aiming for fluency in taught concepts. 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 in to 'real' but 'out of the norm' situations. Knowledge and understanding of Number is key at the beginning of the term; place value, decimal place value and calculation methods, with fractions, decimals and percentages to follow. Knowledge of times tables will be at the forefront of everyday group tasks supported by a variety of interactive iPad apps.

Literacy work will be linked to the texts we will read and focus on the structure and language of diary writing, route planning, a travel brochure and presenting the arguments in a debate on a topical issue. Writing skills and the inclusion of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be high on the agenda.

Science investigations will explore the properties of materials and follow the chemistry behind reversible and non-reversible changes, the role of filtering, sieving and evaporation, plus how baking and burning can make new products.

Computing skills will be integrated through the project and homework tasks and via a specific lesson each week.

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

In PE, the children will undertake various activities provided by MSP.

The children will once again form a company that will specialise in creating a unique experience for visitors. Our client this term will be Ambassador Liu Xiaoming from The Embassy of China in London. An invite to this experience is extended to you; further details to follow.

Kind regards, Claire 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