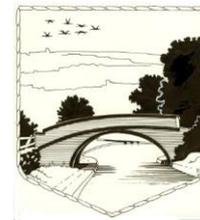


St LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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Year 6 Curriculum Areas (Autumn 2020)

September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

It is so wonderful to have your children back in school after what has been a challenging period to many. Our first priority as a school and as class teachers is to make sure children feel happy and safe to be back in school. Although we may not be as visible on the playground at the end or beginning of the day (to maintain social distancing), we are still available should you have concerns or questions. Do please drop us an email or contact the office if needed. In terms of their learning, please note that there may be some element of 'gap-filling' in order to ensure children have the secure grounding to allow them to continue with their learning in Year 6 and beyond. We are currently in the process of reassessing children in order to ensure the learning is pitched at an appropriate level. As such, whilst the below gives an overview of topics and areas we will cover, there may be some flexibility to cater for the needs of the class. Please refer to the curriculum section of the school website for more information on the curriculum.

One change from previous years to be aware of is that homework will soon be available via **Google Classroom**. Look out for further information on this coming soon. Google classroom and email will also be used to send work for home learning should your family need to self-isolate due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or as required due to contact tracing. The one exception will be for the first day of home learning when children should access activities on the school website. This will be for Covid related absence only.

English

Our weekly routine will involve **spelling and vocabulary** work on a Monday with spellings sent home weekly. It is important that the rules or words are practised so they become embedded. We will develop our **reading** skills through the use of extracts and work on our class book - '**Boy in the Tower**' by Polly Ho-Yen. This is a fantastic book which allows us to develop our reading skills in the key areas of vocabulary, retrieval and inference. We will increasingly aim to 'read as writers', taking inspiration from what we have read and developing an awareness of the techniques writers use to make writing more effective. **Writing** opportunities will be plentiful both in English or Friday Write as well as in lessons across the curriculum. We will spend this first term recapping the basics of sentence structure, **grammar** and techniques in order to secure the basics and give children a toolbox for writing across **varied genres** with increasing confidence and independence.

Children will have time for **reading for pleasure** and we encourage children to read and **often and widely**: it really does pay off. Please note that year 6 children are most definitely not too old to read with someone at home even if they are fluent readers! It does not need to feel like school - just sharing a favourite book and discussing what they're reading and what they're enjoying will really help.

In addition to spelling, **homework** tasks will include reading comprehensions or grammar exercises. These may increasingly involve using online tools and websites as we move to a less paper-based system of homework. Do get in touch if you are having problems accessing the work.

Maths

We will follow the White Rose scheme of work whilst ensuring that year 5 topics are consolidated where needed. In year 6, the emphasis is on really building **confidence and fluency** in the areas taught and being able to apply these to new and unfamiliar problems and contexts. As such, children will be able to either revisit areas they are not yet secure in or deepen their learning through more complex problems as appropriate to their learning.

Homework will be set weekly and will utilise 'MyMaths' and other online tools. Key instant recall facts (KIRFS) are all important: if children are not secure in times tables and number bonds to 10 and 100, it really does make so much of maths much harder. Please continue to practise these skills - games and quick-fire activities used regularly will support your children success in their maths.

Subject	Information	How You Can Help
Science Mrs Coombe	<p>This Autumn term is dedicated to biology. We will describe how living things are classified into broad groups and we will look at the specific characteristics of each group. We will particularly focus on the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird as children missed this Year 5 summer unit. This will lead us naturally to another Y5 recovery unit when we will look at the changes as humans develop to old age.</p> <p>Science homework will be set approximately once a fortnight, to be returned the following Monday.</p>	<p>Talking to your children about what has been learnt and relating it to the living world experienced on a daily basis.</p>
RE Miss Todd	<p>Our first unit looks at how Christians view God, how these ideas are supported by the Bible and how Christians try to put these beliefs into practice to make the world a better place. We will then explore the significance of incarnation. Children will have opportunities to reflect upon how people's lives are shaped by their beliefs and to think about their own values and beliefs.</p> <p>Homework will be linked to the topics of the lessons. Tasks will be set during the week's lesson (usually Tuesday) and should be returned the following week,</p>	<p>You can support your child at home by discussing what they have learnt in school and reflecting with them on their thoughts and feelings.</p>
Computing Mrs Monk	<p>We will be developing our coding skills using the programs Scratch and Kodu to create simple games. We will also reinforce ways of keeping ourselves safe online.</p>	<p>Discussions surrounding online safety will reinforce the messages children receive at school. Children can access Scratch via the internet to practise their programming (scratch.mit.edu). Please note that the tool is available to use without creating a 'login' and we would advise that children should not be registering for the site.</p>
PE Miss Todd	<p>We are yet to determine if and when swimming will be a possibility but it is unlikely to be this half term. Look out for further information. In the meantime, we will continue developing our PE skills in school with lessons taking place on Tuesdays and Fridays. We will develop our skills in net games and invasion games. Children will be encouraged to take opportunities to lead warm-ups or set up games.</p>	<p>Please make sure your child has their named PE kit in school on these days and for any clubs they participate in.</p>
History Miss Todd	<p>The topic this term is the Elizabethans. We will look at Elizabeth I and all the political intrigue and drama of this era whilst also exploring aspects of everyday life at this time. We will especially aim to understand how the legacy of this era remains today.</p>	<p>Supporting your child's curiosity through discussions or home reading/research is always helpful.</p>
Art/DT Miss Todd	<p>Creative opportunities often support learning in other areas, Our skills work will focus on developing our use of perspective in art. Closer to Christmas, we will contribute to winter artwork for the transformation of the hall.</p>	<p>An oversized shirt or T-shirt is a good idea to protect school uniforms during our messier lessons.</p>
Music Miss Todd	<p>Sadly, music making is taking a bit of a back seat under current guidance (at least where it involves singing or wind instruments). As such, our Autumn term will focus on listening skills and developing an awareness of different genres of music, building an awareness of how composers use instrumentation, dynamics, tempo and a host of different elements to create different effects.</p>	<p>Giving opportunities for children to listen to a wide variety of music will complement our class work and give you a chance to share new or familiar music. Please note that instrumental lessons are available in school. Do ask if interested.</p>
PSHE Miss Todd	<p>We have begin with a particular emphasis on developing self-esteem and valuing ourselves for all our unique experiences and traits. We will develop resilience by sharing strategies for overcoming challenges and celebrating each other and ourselves. The Taking Care program will support this learning by giving people tools for keeping themselves safe.</p>	<p>You might talk with children about their day and any challenges and successes they have had and how these are handled.</p>

<p>French</p> <p>Mrs Coombe</p>	<p>Children will have weekly French lessons focused on revisiting words and expressions learnt previously and adding new vocabulary so children can expand their sentences in conversations (speaking and listening)</p> <p>We will also be covering some grammatical rules and learn to read and write in French. French way of life and culture will also be discussed : Tour de France, French artists, important dates in the French calendar , why and how they are celebrated etc.</p>	<p>If you can speak French, practising at home with your child is great. If you cannot speak French, see if they can teach you some words or phrases!</p>
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As you can see, we have a packed term with many and varied topics - so whilst some things seem to have changed beyond recognition, other things seem the same as ever! We hope to meet you all in time, even if it has to be in a distanced way for the time being. In the meantime, let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

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