



Year 6 Curriculum Areas (Summer 2021)

April 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and, like us, are enjoying the longer days and reappearance of some sunshine. Long may it continue! We have a busy term in prospect, with lots of focus on getting the children ready for the transition to secondary school alongside, we hope, all of the usual celebrations and opportunities which will mark the children's final term with us.

We are lucky to be a team of three this term: Miss Mingins got to know the children last term and is looking forward to working with them this term alongside us both.

English

We will be basing our work on texts which link to our history and science topics in particular, beginning with the classic tale of Beowulf. Reading work focuses on the key skills of retrieval, inference and vocabulary as well as supporting writing by helping children to see how writers' choices help to have different impacts or effects on readers. We will be aiming to ensure children have opportunities to write in a range of genres, adapting their writing for different audiences with greater independence. Drafting and editing will take a special prominence as children pull together the different skills they have acquired and address their own targets and areas for development.

Spelling lessons continue to take place on Monday and Tuesday will have a grammar or punctuation focus. Reading permeates many of our lessons with special reading sessions Monday - Thursday mornings. Please note, we do encourage children to use Read Theory regularly at home as this really does help them to develop their comprehension skills. Additional homework tasks will be set via Google Classroom. It's fantastic to see that many children are becoming more organised in managing their homework - this really will help prepare them for next year.

Maths

Since returning to school we have been focusing on the topics covered during remote learning to make sure they had been understood and absorbed. Many children have really impressed us and we have been able to deepen their understanding through problems and reasoning work. Others have really benefited from a little revisiting. This term will, to some extent, have a similar flavour: revisiting the most important areas to make sure children are confident to progress to secondary and have the key skills needed. Those who are more confident will have opportunities to deepen their knowledge and tackle trickier problems.

We will continue to maintain fluency of the four methods of calculation, mental arithmetic and times tables. Practising these skills at home, particularly mental arithmetic and timetables, is extremely beneficial for children and so please do utilise real world maths such as cooking, shopping or DIY to embed these concepts

Subject	Information	How You Can Help
Science (taught by Miss Mingins/Mrs Coombe)	Our first topic will be Inheritance, Adaptation and Evolution . It is a fascinating topic during which children will also learn about Darwin and Wallace's findings. We have booked an online workshop with experts from the National History Museum in London after May half term to deepen our knowledge too. We will then move on to the Human Circulatory System and learn about our heart and how to keep healthy .	Talking to your children about what has been learnt and relating it to the living world experienced on a daily basis. Science homework will be set approximately once a fortnight, to be returned the following Monday . Your support is appreciated.
RE (taught by Miss Todd)	Our first topic looks at how religion helps people when life gets hard, with a particular focus on Christian and Hindu views on death and dying . Please see the separate email regarding this unit and don't hesitate to contact myself (Miss Todd) if you have any concerns. Our second unit, People of God , will look at Christian approaches to freedom and justice .	You can support your child at home by discussing what they have learnt in school and reflecting with them on their thoughts and feelings. RE homework will be set via Google Classroom.

Computing (taught by Mrs Monk)	This term we will be learning about websites , exploring their uses and how they are created. We will then design our own. We will also be reinforcing our Office skills using Word, Powerpoint and Excel to create presentations, graphs and tables.	Please continue to reinforce the online safety messages that we teach in school, including keeping our personal information private, talking safely online and cyberbullying.
PE (taught by Mrs Monk and Tag Rugby)	Please note. PE, will now take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. Friday sessions will be tag rugby. On Wednesdays we will practise and develop athletic skills including, running, jumping and throwing. Later in the term, games lessons will involve striking and fielding games such as cricket and rounders.	Please make sure your child has their named PE kit in school on these days and for any clubs they participate in.
History (taught by Miss Todd)	We will look at the Anglo Saxon and Viking struggle for the Kingdom of England, aiming to understand why people invaded and settled in England and the beliefs, customs and ways of life they brought with them. We will develop an understanding of how historians use sources and discoveries to understand the period.	Homework is set approximately once a fortnight via <i>Google Classroom</i> . Where a project is set, additional time and guidance will be given.
Art/DT (taught by Miss Todd)	We have begun the term with a focus on artist and sculptor Alexander Calder and have developed different art and DT skills within this context. Other projects will be linked to English and Topic.	An oversized shirt or T-shirt is a good idea to protect school uniforms during our messier lessons. These can be stored at school until needed.
Music (taught by Miss Todd)	We will continue to listen to a range of music. We'll focus on rhythm initially but hope to include more singing as the term progresses and taking into account health and safety guidance for this.	Instrumental lessons are available for those who wish to pursue lessons further. Listening to music at home is also fantastic.
PSHE (taught by Miss Todd)	We will cover the sex and relationship unit this term which will cover issues related to puberty and growing up and different types of relationships . We will also discuss stereotypes and body image . Look out for a separate letter with further details. We are looking forward to some sessions this term about coping with anxiety and resilience . We will also do some transition work, making sure children have a chance to discuss any worries they may have about moving to secondary school . More details will follow.	Some of the themes may give rise to questions or opportunities for further discussion.
French (taught by Miss Todd)	Children have used Duolingo in order to progress at their own pace. We have been sharing new vocabulary and phrases in class and developing pronunciation. We are aiming to carry out short exchanges using our new vocabulary.	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! Duolingo can be used at home.

Further information regarding the curriculum is available on the website and do keep an eye on the journal for other school events such as the Concert Night, Sports Days and performances. Obviously we are guided by whatever restrictions continue to be in place but we are all hopeful that all of these will feature in some form or another.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact any of the team. Mrs Coombe is available Monday - Wednesday and Miss Todd on Tuesday - Friday.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Todd
 Anne Coombe
 Julie Monk
 Hannah Mingins