

English: In our first unit, the children will be re-capping their learning from Year 5 and continuing to develop their vocabulary and descriptive skills. They will be describing a character's journey across many different settings, encountering dangerous situations and exploring characters feelings. We will then be moving onto a poetry unit, focusing on vocabulary building and the use of appropriate, powerful language that fits the piece. And, in relation to our History topic, the children will write non-chronological reports about the Vikings.

Homework, Spellings and Reading: Homework will be set on Monday to be returned (marked) by Friday. This will mainly be maths and relate to our current maths unit; however, English will occasionally be set instead to support new learning. If you are unsure about the work set, the children must come to see me by Thursday at the latest.

We will be concentrating on particular spelling rules this half term, with spellings reflecting this. Children will be tested on a Wednesday and spellings will go on the jotter by Thursday. Please encourage them to practise at home.

Most children are now free readers and will be reading children's novels. These can be books from home, the local library or from school. I am asking children to bring new books for approval to ensure they are reading at an appropriately challenging level!

Maths:

All children need to learn their tables in order to be able to recall facts quickly, out of sequence and to know the related division facts. We will continue to use Disraeli to support this in school. Teaching this year will cover: Number and place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions (including decimals and percentages), ratio and proportion, algebra, measurement, geometry and statistics. We will be focusing on arithmetic in the Autumn term to ensure that the children have a strong foundation for the rest of the curriculum.

PE: Both P.E. lessons will be with outside providers. The children will learn tennis skills on a **Tuesday** with LTA Youth Schools and will take part in other sporting activities with Mr Ferrell on a **Friday**. The children will change in same-gender groups at lunchtime and wear their kit home. Please ensure PE kits come back on the next school day.

History : This term our topic will be 'The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons'. The children will learn about the warring factions struggling for the Kingdom of England. They will look at Anglo Saxon settlements, focusing on village life, art and culture, Viking invasions and resistance against them. During the topic, we will research finds such as the burial at Sutton Hoo to discover what we can find out about history from archaeological digs.

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RE:

We will be reflecting on our own ideas about God and how religions celebrate key events in life. We will consider the story of Buddha and his teachings, how symbols can be used to express meaning and sacred and secular ways of celebrating Christmas.

PSHE: Watford F.C. will be running "Positive Minds" for ten weeks. We will subsequently focus on the positive in Year 6, looking at: rights and responsibilities, strengths, goals and how to help others.

Science: If your child comes home talking about blood and guts, please do not be alarmed as really all they will have been doing is exploring the workings of their circulatory system and the function of the organs. Lessons will be closely linked with PSHE and the importance of diet, the positive effects of medicines as well as the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on their bodies. Further information about this will be sent home prior to the specific lessons taking place. After half term, our lessons will focus on evolution and inheritance, learning about how living things have changed over time and how animals adapt to suit their environment.

Computing:

We will re-visit e-safety and complete a unit called 'We Are Computational Thinkers' in which we will develop our ability to reason logically about algorithms using a variety of programs.

Art: This term, we will be doing Design and Technology. The children will be researching, designing, creating and painting new bird boxes to be placed in trees around the school. Please send them in with a painting apron to be kept in school. This can be an old adult shirt or t-shirt.

Music: Y6 will start with singing, concentrating on increasing confidence, individually and as a group. They will improve their aural skills by considering a classical piece of music in depth, before improvising, composing and performing music inspired by it. They will develop an understanding of the history of music, investigating composers of the Modern period. They will have an opportunity in December to watch young musicians from the Purcell school give a live performance and meet the instruments and musicians!

French: The children will continue to follow the French programme *Salut*. They will learn about the environment, actions and family.

Expectations: Now that the children are in Year Six, they are encouraged to develop increasing independence and responsibility to give them the best possible preparation for secondary school. Therefore, children will be responsible for ensuring that: **homework** is received, taken home and handed in on time; reading books are in and appropriate footwear is worn, they have their **PE kit** in school on the appropriate days, that letters are handed in and that aprons (or **art shirts**) are in lockers.