



Year 6 Newsletter Spring Term

Evolution and Inheritance - *Who do you think you are?*

We hope you have had a restful half term break and are ready for this next half term. We are very proud of how hard the children have been working – they have all shown a lot of resilience and so much enthusiasm for learning.

The children have been great at remembering their SAT's buster books each week and it is really good to hear about the support they have had from home. We will continue with these books through this half term- please see the attached new timetable.

We are looking forward to Bikeability in this first week, which will be a brilliant experience for the children.

In this half term, our topic is science based and we will be finding out about genetics and inheritance whilst learning about the research of Darwin.

In Literacy:

This half-term, we will be studying Macbeth, which for many will be their first taste of Shakespeare! We will be looking closely at the characters of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as well as the themes within the play.

We will continue to have a weekly lesson focussing on spelling and grammar skills to support our writing.

One of our literacy lessons each week will focus purely on reading comprehension using a variety of longer texts.

Our class reader is, 'Darwin's Dragons' written by Lindsay Galvin. This is a brilliant and enjoyable story, which fits in with our science work.

In Maths:

We will be continuing with our weekly arithmetic sessions to help improve accuracy and confidence when calculating. This term we will be finishing our number work by learning about ratio and proportion before moving on to focus on statistics. We have an extra maths session in an afternoon each week where we will be revisiting work on shape.

We will be expecting children to continue practising their times tables at home to improve their speed of recall. They will also start doing Maths tests in their SATs Buster books as part of their weekly homework.

In Science:

This half term, we will be exploring the different theories behind evolution and creation. We will learn about the work of Mary Anning and Charles Darwin. The children work in teams to carry out a scientific investigation based on area of genetics of their choice. The visits from some real life scientists will no doubt inspire our next generation of biologists and forensic investigators.

In other areas of the curriculum:

PSHE: We continue our work on Living in the Wider World with a focus on Money and Work. We will be considering the role that money plays in people's lives, attitudes towards it and what influences decisions about money.

D.T.: Throughout this half term, we will be learning about gears and pulleys.

P.E.: On Mondays, we will be developing our fitness skills. On Thursdays during PPA time, the focus will be on the skills needed for net and wall games.

French: This half term, we will be continuing our learning all about animals.

Computing: We will be using a programme called Audacity to experiment with Macbeth sound clips and background audio.

Music: The focus this half term is the Minor Blues and the children will be playing and composing using pitch and rhythm notation.

Extended Learning Opportunities:

- Find out about an animal and the adaptations it has to suit its environment. Have a trip to the zoo or wildlife park.
- Design a new species that lives in the bottom of your bag or car boot. What adaptations will it need?
- After it has been raining have a look in the garden. Can you see any snails? Have a look at the patterns on their shells? What do you notice? Are there any with similar patterns? Snail shell patterns are inherited from their parents. Can you find a potential family of snails? How many different shell patterns can you spot?

Dates for your diary:

28th February to 4th March – Bikeability

9th & 10th March - Parents evening

Homework:

The homework expectations for Year 6 are different to the rest of the school.

We will continue to use the SAT buster books, which have 10-minute tests inside.

Each week, they will be set tasks from two of the books to be marked in school the following week. This is a great opportunity to work alongside your child and support them.

To make it easier for you to understand and support your child with the expectations, there is a separate timetable attached which shows the expectations for each week, the dates the homework is due in and a column to tick off when it is done! A paper copy will be sent home with your child. Any questions then please contact your class teacher.

Please ensure that the home/school reading record is in school on a daily basis.

Reminders:

Children should come to school in PE kit on a MONDAY and THURSDAY. This should consist of dark, plain tracksuit bottoms or shorts; white t-shirt and school jumper or cardigan. Children will also need suitable trainers for outdoor PE.

Week beginning....	Homework expectation	Due in	Tick
28 th February	Reading Buster Test 6 GPS Buster Test B1 Reading x 2 Spellings Times tables book	Thursday 10 th March Friday 11 th March Monday 7 th March Monday 7 th March Wednesday 9 th March	
7 th March	GPS Buster Test B2 Maths Buster test B1 Reading x 3 Spellings	Friday 18 th March Wednesday 16 th March Monday 14 th March Monday 14 th March	
14 th March	Maths Buster Test B2 Reading Buster Test B1 Reading x 2 Spellings	Wednesday 23 rd March Thursday 24 th March Monday 21 st March Monday 21 st March	
21 st March	Reading Buster Test B2 GPS Buster Test B3 Reading x 2 Spellings Times tables book	Thursday 31 st March Friday 1 st April Monday 28 th March Monday 28 th March Wednesday 30 th March	
28 th March	GPS Buster Test B4 Maths Buster test B3 Reading x 3 Spellings	Friday 8 th April Wednesday 6 th April Monday 4 th April Monday 4 th April	
4 th April	Maths Buster Test B4 Reading Buster Test B3 Reading x 2 Spellings	Wednesday 27 th April Thursday 28 th April Monday 25 th April Monday 25 th April	