



## Year 6 Newsletter Spring Term

### The first historic dynasty of China -

#### *What were the achievements of the Shang Dynasty?*

The Year 6 team would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We hope that you have had a restful Christmas and that you, and your child, are fully refreshed and ready for the new term. Although this term is going to be both busy and challenging as we continue to prepare your child for the end of key stage tests (beginning Monday 10th May) and secondary school, it is also full of exciting and enriching activities. Up until half-term, we will be immersed in a history-based topic looking deeper into the history of Ancient China.

This term, we will be giving the children 3 SATs buster books (Reading, Maths and Grammar.) Each week they will be set one test from each of the books which will mark together in class. Please encourage and support your child with these and feel free to contact us if there is anything you are unsure about.

#### In Literacy:

In Literacy, we will be looking at Yeh Shen, the Chinese version of Cinderella. We will be comparing this with the traditional story as well as developing our own character and setting descriptions. Later in the half term, we will be using discussion techniques in order to produce a balanced argument.

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

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

Our class reader this term is, 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' written by Philip Pullman. A light-hearted read that your child may wish to read along with at home.

#### In Science:

We will become independent investigators to find out more about the forces acting on everyday objects in everyday life. We will test our hypothesis and form conclusions about gravity, air resistance, up thrust, friction, gears and levers.

#### In Maths:

We will be continuing with our weekly arithmetic sessions to help improve accuracy and confidence when calculating. During this term, we will also continue our work on fractions, decimals and percentages before moving on to look further at ratio and algebra.

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 History:

We will be uncovering the mystery behind the Shang Dynasty and identifying their achievements as an Ancient civilisation.

The children will take on the role as archaeologists to make decisions of what we can infer about their daily life, rituals and beliefs, organisation of community, warfare, writing and what caused their collapse.

We will recognise that these Ancient Civilisations had a significant role in modern day life.

**In other areas of the curriculum:**

**PSHE:** Our focus for the Spring term is on Living in the Wider World. We will be considering the importance of belonging to a community as well as recognising the need for safe and appropriate use of media sources.

**Art:** We will be improving our drawing and painting skills through creating a blossom picture.

**P.E.:** On Mondays, we will be developing attacking and defending skills. On Thursdays during PPA time, we will be continue to develop gymnastics skills from the Autumn term.

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

**Computing:** Our focus will be creating and manipulating spreadsheets.

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

Any additional research on an aspect of Ancient China would be fantastic. Perhaps a real or virtual visit to the British Museum, London or Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

You may want to find out about some of the famous landmarks and tourist attractions in China and then share your research with us in class.

Try cooking a Chinese feast and bring in photos to share with us.

**Dates for your diary:**

Bikeability will be taking place AFTER half term – watch this space for more information.

**Homework:**

This term, the homework expectations for Year 6 are different to the rest of the school.

Your child will be given 3 new homework books called SAT buster which have 10 minute tests inside. There is one for maths, one for reading and one for grammar and punctuation.

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.

**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.

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Homework expectation</b>	<b>Due in</b>	<b>Tick</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Maths Buster Test 1 Reading Buster Test 1  Reading x 2 Spellings	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January  Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Reading Buster Test 2 GPS Buster Test 1  Reading x 2 Spellings Times tables book	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January  Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	
17 <sup>th</sup> January	GPS Buster Test 2 Maths Buster test 2  Reading x 3 Spellings	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January  Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Maths Buster Test 3 Reading Buster Test 3  Reading x 2 Spellings	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February  Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> January Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Reading Buster Test 4 GPS Buster Test 3  Reading x 2 Spellings Times tables book	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February  Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	
7 <sup>th</sup> February	GPS Buster Test 4 Maths Buster test 4  Reading x 3 Spellings	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February  Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths Buster Test 5 Reading Buster Test 5  Reading x 2 Spellings	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March  Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	