



# Year 6 Newsletter

## Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Happy New Year!

We would like to start by thanking you all for your generous gifts, cards and kind words before the Christmas break. We hope you all had a lovely time and that the children are raring to go this term!

We will continue to teach our Foundation subjects in blocks. This means that RE, PSHE and PE will be taught every week but all other subjects apart from English and maths will be taught during the afternoons in blocks, rather than weekly.

#### **English:**

This term, we will continue to read carefully selected fiction and non-fiction texts which will inspire a wide range of writing such as stories, instructions, diaries, letters, newspaper reports and balanced arguments. We will start by studying the life of Charles Darwin, with particular emphasis on his voyage on the Beagle.

We also hope to take part in the BBC 500 Words writing competition later this month.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be taught every day with a different spelling pattern to focus on each week as follows:

06.01.20 – ough

13.01.20 – ie / ei

20.01.20 – cious / tious

27.01.20 – silent letters

03.02.20 – common exception words (words that do not fit regular patterns and just need to be remembered).

#### **Maths:**

As a school, we are following the White Rose maths scheme and we supplement, modify and extend this with other resources and ideas as necessary. The children will cover a range of work this term, starting with decimals, then moving on to percentages, algebra and measures. Every lesson, there will be a focus on arithmetic and applying skills in a range of contexts. All children are expected to know their times tables up to 12x12 by this stage and be able to recall the different facts INSTANTLY, so please support this if necessary.

**Foundation Subjects:**

Our main focus this half term will be Evolution and Inheritance. This is one of our science topics which we are sure the children will find fascinating. It will lead us on to learning about some endangered species and thinking about what we can do to help with some of the current environmental issues. Linking with Charles Darwin's voyage, we will learn about rivers and coasts in geography. In RE, we will be studying a unit of work called 'Journey of Life' where we will learn about changes that occur in people's lifetimes. Computing lessons will be linked to coding, continuing to use Scratch, and French lessons will focus on activities children do at the weekend. In music, we will be using GarageBand to compose songs to help us remember maths and grammar facts.

**PE:**

PE will continue on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Mrs Dakin's class, and Wednesdays and Thursdays for Ms Gurr's class. Our sports will be football and table tennis.

PE kits should be in school every day, as we sometimes change days according to the weather. Children with long hair must wear it tied up for PE lessons, and earrings must be removed or covered.

**Reading:**

We expect the children to read every day. We encourage the reading of a variety of texts such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, magazines, graphic novels, newspapers etc. Children should have a book with them in school every day and record their reading in their reading diaries. It would be beneficial for you to hear your child read and discuss what they have read in order to check their understanding.

**Weekly Homework:**

The children will be set project-based homework each half term. Additionally, they should be reading daily (see above) as well as practising their times tables (Times Tables Rock Stars is great for this).

Water bottles are essential every day, and pencil cases should be able to fit comfortably in to their personal trays.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dakin and Ms Gurr

