

YEAR 6 TERM 2 2009 / 2010

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! This is a busy term for us, for in addition to our normal activities, we will be going on a residential visit to Fujairah, something we're all excited about. We also begin preparation for the Key Stage Two tests in May. Children will be tested in English, Maths and Science. We will be providing further information about the tests nearer the time.

6B

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday-	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music and ICT

6H

Saturday	- PE and ICT
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music

6J

Saturday	- PE
Sunday	- French and Swimming
Monday	- French
Tuesday	- Choral and PE
Wednesday	- Music and ICT

CURRICULUM

Literacy

In Literacy we will continue to follow the National Literacy Framework. This term it focuses on:

- Narrative writing based on longer established stories and novels selected from more than one genre
- Arguments
- Formal writing
- A range of poetic forms

A great website that lists recommended authors and book prize winners is: www.booktrusted.co.uk. We would particularly recommend the 'Carnegie Medal Winners' section.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we shall be re-visiting many areas from the revised Numeracy Framework as well as developing children's mental agility. The main topics in the first half of term will be shape and space, place value, multiplication, division, money and 'real life' problems, fractions, decimals and percentages. In the latter part of term we will be re-visiting measure, data handling, addition, subtraction, properties of numbers and number sequences. We will be testing children again at the end of term.

A good website for further numeracy activities to support your child's passport target is: <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

Science

In science this term we will cover the topics:

'More about dissolving' – This unit consolidates and extends children's understanding of what happens when a variety of solids dissolve.

'Reversible and irreversible changes' – This unit brings together and consolidates work that children have done before on reversible changes e.g. melting, freezing, evaporating, dissolving, condensing.

'Forces in Action' – In this unit the children will apply their knowledge of a variety of forces, including magnetic attraction, gravitational attraction and friction. Children learn about the changes in motion which occur when forces act on an object. They consolidate their understanding that forces have direction and can be measured.

Geography

Our topic this term is entitled 'Environment Alert' and focuses on world environmental issues. We will be looking at different habitats around the world and the extent to which humans have had a detrimental impact upon them. Any newspaper or magazine articles on environmental disasters past and present would be useful.

Art

Our Art topic this term is called 'A Sense of Place'. In this unit the children will explore the rural and urban landscape as a starting point for 3-Dimensional work. They will record their observations through drawing and photography and develop these to produce a weaving of their chosen landscape. If you have any spare wool at home, please send it in to add to our choice of colours.

S.E.A.L. (Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning)

The themes for this term's CPSHE and circle time are 'Going for Goals' and 'Good to be me'. 'Going for Goals' focuses on the key aspect of motivation and provides an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. As well as setting and achieving goals, children will be finding out how to begin to take responsibility for their learning and the importance of persistence and of resilience, (bouncing back or maintaining effort through a difficult experience or after a mistake or failure).

The second unit explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self awareness and helping children realise that it really is 'Good to be me'. The theme focuses on understanding feelings, and why and how they lead us to

behave the way we do-particularly the feelings of being excited, proud, surprised, hopeful, disappointed, worried and anxious. Throughout both units, children will be learning through role play, discussion and playing games, using school assembly time to support classroom activities.

Throughout the term we will continue to celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exams grades, certificates or medals that your children receive for efforts outside of school are a great addition, so please feel free to send them in.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term children will learn that mathematical models can be explored using spreadsheets. Children will enter data and learn how to copy formulae, use AutoSum and create charts. Later in the term children will learn that devices can be controlled through instructions; this will introduce the syntax of commands. Children will work out the commands to control traffic lights and will be able to enter and edit a procedure. A simulation program will also be used.

Music

'Lyrics and Melody' develops the children's ability to compose a song with an awareness of the relationship between lyrics and melody. They will listen to songs from various genres and discuss the significance of the lyrics – and will investigate blues music in particular. They employ simple techniques for composing their own lyrics and setting these to a 12 bar blues chord pattern.

The second, shorter unit of work is entitled 'Exploring Sound Sources'. Here the children will explore a wide range of sound sources (also using ICT) to capture, explore, change and communicate sounds. They will make expressive use of vocal and instrumental possibilities to create and structure compositions in groups and share these with the class.

New musical vocabulary (or 'WOW' words) will be learnt throughout the term.

French

Year Six will be working on Units 9 and 10 of the scheme 'Rigolo 2'. In Unit 9, 'Ma Journée', they will be learning how to ask and talk about daily routine, talk about times of daily routine and ask and talk about breakfast and a typical day. In Unit 10, 'Les Transports', they will learn to talk about forms of transport, talk about where they are going and how to get there, talk about plans for a trip and learn how to buy tickets at a station. The interactive material will be supplemented with worksheets to practise the four skills of reading writing, speaking and listening.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or any other area concerning your child's progress, please arrange a meeting with the class teacher. Brief queries can usually be answered via a note in the personal organiser. However, for a more in-depth discussion, it is usually best to arrange a time after school. In order to strengthen Home – School communication, it is important that you speak to your class teacher in the first instance. If necessary, the matter can then be referred to the Year Leader, or to Miss Haynes, the Head Teacher. We are always pleased to

discuss your child's progress with you, so please don't wait until a concern becomes a problem before speaking to us.

HOMEWORK

To assist the children with their transition into Year 7, we will continue with the amount of homework they have been receiving. There will be an extra 30 minute piece of work set each evening from Saturday to Tuesday. In addition to this, the children are also expected to read for at least 20 minutes and practise their spellings and numeracy passport facts for a weekly test. Literacy and numeracy homework is returned on the following day, though we allow greater flexibility for science, history and geography, in an effort to develop independence and study skills. We really appreciate a short note in the personal organiser if your child is unable to complete a piece of homework and your initials against the piece, to show where help has been given.

Equipment needed

Although we do provide basic stationery equipment in school, it is preferable for each child to have the following **named** equipment if at all possible:

- Pencil case
- Coloured pencils **not felt tips**
- HB pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- 30cm ruler
- Glue sticks
- Fountain or Roller-ball pen (black or dark blue ink) **not biro**
- Set of coloured pens for underlining etc
- Set of highlighter pens
- Basic calculator with percentage button
- Pocket dictionary
- An old named shirt or apron for Art and D.T. lessons
- Scissors

Timetabling Arrangements for this term

In order to make the best use of our time during this very busy term we have decided to modify our timetable. We have set aside the last 3 weeks of term to focus on revision for the SATs tests that will be taking place in May. During those 3 weeks (and the 5 weeks following the Easter holidays) we will be revisiting all topics covered throughout Key Stage Two in English, maths and science. During this time the children will be taught study skills in SEAL lessons. We would like to recommend the following website for revision: www.bbc.co.uk/education/revisewise

The final week of term will be our home-school initiative week. Children will be designing, making, packaging and tasting home-made biscuits. We will provide more details nearer the event.

Tuck Shop

The tuck shop is open to children in Year Six for the first 10 minutes of both breaks on a daily basis. This facility is intended to supplement your child's lunchbox and we would ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

Events This Term

Trip to Fujairah – 17th - 21st January

Mid-Year Reports sent home – 26th January

KS2 Sports Day – 27th January

Parent Teacher Consultations – 31st January and 2nd February

KS2 Enrichment Day – 9th February

KS 2 Swimming Gala – 29th March

Easter Egg Competition – 30th March

Thank you again for your obvious interest and enthusiasm in your child's work. We look forward to seeing you soon at the parent's evenings.

Mrs Birchall (Year Leader)

Mrs Hayden

Miss Jones