

Year 5 and 6 Class Newsletter

Autumn Term

Welcome back to a new school year. Already, I have been impressed by the way pupils in our class help one another and that they are putting their hands up and allowing others to speak. This letter will let you know the topics that we will be covering in each subject as well as some important information about homework and general routines.

Adults in our class

Mrs Curwen

Mrs Coulston

Mrs Brooks

Maths

We are continuing to use White Rose for maths. We always start the year with place value as this underpins all number work. We will then move onto the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).

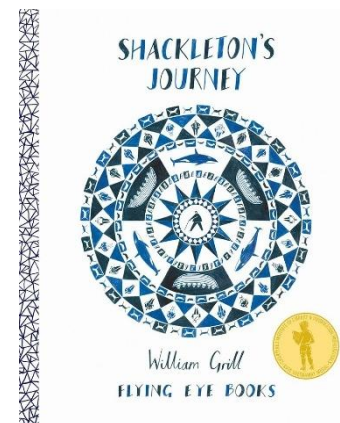
By the end of year 4, all children should have good recall of all times tables. We will be continuing to keep these fresh in our mind and close any gaps. Times tables come into use across most areas of maths, even when you don't realise you're using them!

English

Our first unit is based around the book Shackleton's Journey. This is a KS2 picture book which tells an exciting true story and provides us with a good basis for discussion and a variety of writing.

I will incorporate short units focusing on reading comprehension skills throughout the year but this is also a continuous thread running through all lessons.

Grammar, spelling and punctuation is always a focus in our English lessons through specific activities and teacher marking/feedback. There is also a focus on the pupils editing their own work, checking for errors and making improvements.



Reading

Last week, each child chose a reading book with some adult guidance. Ideally, reading should be something they enjoy doing and choosing a book is the first step in that. If your child is not enjoying their book, they are welcome to change it. They are also welcome to read their own books as long as they are at the correct level. When your child reads at home, please sign their reading record. In the morning, they can bring this to Mrs Brooks for a house point. They should be reading at least 3 times a week.

Handwriting

In Year 6, we allow all pupils to use a pen regardless of where they are on the handwriting certificates. This is to help prepare them for secondary school.

We will continue to reward handwriting with certificates. I have summarised each stage below:

Stage 1: I can write my name with correct letter formation.

Stage 2: I can form all my letters and numbers correctly.

Stage 3: I can write on the line and use basic joins correctly. *(Can use a pen provided by school.)*

Stage 4: I can keep letters a consistent size with clear ascenders and descenders and use all joins correctly. *(Can purchase a fountain pen from the school office if they wish.)*

Stage 5: I have fluent flowing handwriting. I am developing my own style; using my fluent style in all of my work.

Effort Certificate: For outstanding effort in handwriting.

Science This term, year 5 and 6 will be learning about '**Light**' in science, exploring how light travels in straight lines and that this explains observations of shadows and reflection.

History This term, the children will be learning about **World War 2**. They will be discovering what life was like for children during WW2, focusing on the evacuation experience, the Blitz, and how families lived on rations.

Geography This term, our geography unit is **Who lives in Antarctica?** The children will be exploring the physical features of Antarctica, examining how people adapt to working in this extreme environment and planning an expedition inspired by Shackleton's journey. This links nicely to our English unit!

Art/DT This term in art, the unit is **Sculpture and 3D Making**. The children will be creating a personal memory box using a collection of found objects and hand-sculptured forms, reflecting primary school life with symbolic and personal meaning. We alternate art and DT units throughout the year.

Music We will be using Charanga for our music lessons. In the first half term, the children will develop their learning about **music and technology** then we will practice singing for the play.

RE The children will begin the year with their unit "**What is the character and nature of God?**"

French This year, Miss Barker will be teaching the children French. They are starting the year with a fun unit on French **greetings**.

Computing Year 5 and 6 are beginning with **programming music using Scratch**. We will also be developing a range of ICT skills through other subjects.

PE Our PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. This term, the children will be focusing on **netball** skills and learning the rules of the game. Miss Barker now teaches PE on a Friday. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit and that it is in school on PE days.

PSHE and Picture News Each week the children will do PSHE with their first unit being "**Connecting with others: Why are healthy relationships important?**". Picture News covers different areas in the current news and promotes discussion and in-depth thinking around these.

Star of the Week and Light Tree If your child brings home a star for star of the week, please return this to school the following Thursday. Based on our school motto 'Let your light shine', I will choose someone each week who has let their light shine. They hang a candle on our light tree and get a nice, shiny sticker.

Manners, effort and attitude As we start a new school year, these are three areas we are focusing on as a whole school. I will be focusing on these when choosing pupils for Star of the Week and our Light Tree.

Seats in class Especially being such a small class, we encourage our pupils to work with everybody. We will regularly move seats in class to allow everyone to have a change and sit next to someone new.

VIP We will be continuing with VIP this year which is always a lovely time to celebrate all the things each child brings to our school. If your child is a VIP (wearing a blue jumper) you are invited to attend our VIP assembly at 9am on a Friday. If you need more notice for the VIP assembly, please let me know. Please wash the VIP jumper and return it to school the following Monday.

Please see overleaf for Homework.

Homework

Maths and English Homework

I will set pages in their CGP books. If there is nothing appropriate in the CGP book, I may occasionally send a separate sheet.

CGP books will go out on a Tuesday and are **due back on a Monday**. We haven't started this homework yet as Mrs Watson and I are assessing the children to ensure we order the correct level book.

Reading

As part of their homework, the children should be **reading at least 3 times a week**. This should be signed by their adult in their reading record. They earn a house point for each time they read and we have a chart to keep track of reading so that we can find additional time at break if they haven't read 3 times.

Spelling Test

Spelling Tests will be handed out on a Friday and tested the following Friday. I will send home a paper copy of the spellings and set them on Spelling Shed. I am happy for the children to practise their spellings in any way that works for them and I do not need any work returned to me as I will be able to judge from the result of spelling tests and can review as needed.

TTRS (Timestable Rockstars)

TTRS is not part of Year 5 and 6 homework but it is available for them in school and at home.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Curwen