



Year 6 Newsletter

Term One

A warm welcome back to a new academic year! We hope that you had a great Summer and got to spend it having as much fun as possible, even if the weather hasn't been too kind! The difficulties of our previous academic year have been well-documented and we are optimistic that this year can restore some of normality back to school life. As Mr Blight has already said, there are some aspects of organisation that we will keep in place this year which as a school we feel will benefit the children but we are keeping everything crossed for as little disruption as possible.

One aspect that the children will be different this year is that Year 5 and Year 6 will be studying different topics to each other. In the past we have studied the same topic over a two-year cycle but this will no longer be the case. We believe that this will have a more positive effect on the children's learning and allow us to explore themes that are more reflective of what the children should be learning at the right time. This term our Year 6s will be studying our Invaders and Settlers topic which is a great topic to investigate. We will look at the historical side as well as the structure of the societies. We will also look at all the blood and gore which comes with this interesting topic.

We are still continuing the use of our email address for any non-urgent correspondence. Of course, you can still call the school or speak to one of the staff on the gate for any pressing matters. The address is year6@standensbarn.org.uk Please just bear with us when awaiting a reply - we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Literacy

Reading is very important to us at Standens Barn. Each class will have a book they will read together on a regular basis with their class teacher. Children will also be given the opportunity to read regularly with an adult in school. We also

cannot stress how important it is for children to read at home independently and with an adult where possible. The core text for our reading and writing will be Viking Boy. This is an exciting text all about Viking warriors and the Norse Gods. This is the first time we have used this text and we have some great plans for our reading and writing. We will also be looking at non-fiction texts to gain a deeper understanding of this historical genre.

Maths:

This year we will be using a new scheme of work called White Rose Maths. This is an excellent scheme that will ensure progression through the year groups is consistent. This term we will focus on place value and the four operations. Reasoning skills will also be explored and looked at during our lessons. We will also look at arithmetic skills including times tables. At home, it is important that the children continue to learn their times tables as this is a key factor in many areas of maths. Homework will be set through MyMaths with children being given access to this through their username and password. We will also be using a program called Learning by Questions which will also help with the children's maths development.

Science

Often in science, the topic we are studying will not link to the main topic of the term. This will be the case in Term 1 as we study how light works. We will look at how light travels in straight lines and cannot go around corners. We will look at the human eye and discover how light can be seen. We will also look at how shadows are formed. Our science work will also link to DT as we create our own periscopes.

French

This term Year 6 will build on their previous knowledge of French grammar, applying it to the topic of the area they live in. There will be a specific focus on conversational French and giving opinions with justifications.

Music:

This term we will look at comparing Bernstein's Mambo from West Side Story with Prokofiev's Knight's Dance from Romeo & Juliet. Students will develop listening skills, rhythm & notation, learn about dynamics, tempo, timbre, playing

percussion.

DT

This term we will be focussing on DT in our topic by creating replicas of viking longships. We will learn the parts of the ship and how they used superb craftsmanship to make their vessels as seaworthy as possible. We will also make periscopes as part of our science topic.

Computing

We will start the year in computing by looking at coding and how we can create and debug programs by using software called Scratch and Purple Mash. Each child will be given their own Purple Mash account details so that they can also access this at home. This will lead into the children creating their own games which is always a lot of fun.

History

As you would expect, history plays an important part of our topic this term. We will start by looking at timelines and how the Viking and Anglo-Saxon period fits into British history. We will research Viking and Anglo-Saxon society and discover how they came to live together from the 8th century and beyond. We will look at the changes in society and also find out how the Vikings came to live and settle in this country.

PE:

This term PE will be on Wednesday afternoons. This term the children will cover two different PE topics. We will be doing tag-rugby and indoor athletics this term. Each of these topics will last three weeks. Children will need to ensure they wear the correct kit as per the email from Mr Blight.

Helping your child at home:

Children in Year 6 are expected to complete their weekly homework tasks to earn their golden time each week. This includes weekly spellings, reading at least twice and recording in their homework diaries and

completing the maths work set for them. Homework is expected to be completed by the following days so that children can receive their full golden time.

Spellings: Our spelling tests are on Friday mornings with children receiving their new spellings the same day.

Reading: Reading records are collected on Friday mornings. We encourage children to read with an adult where possible and discuss what has happened in the text.

Maths: Maths homework will be set on Thursdays and be expected to be completed by the following Thursday.