Dear Parents /Carers,

I am looking forward to teaching your child in this busy and exciting term at West Twyford. This term pupils will be practising all the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout their primary school career to prepare for the end of KS2 test, as well as embarking on exciting new learning journeys.

This termly letter is to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the term. It provides information about what this term holds in store for your child. It breaks down which skills, knowledge and concepts are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

Mathematics

As you know, your child has already been learning using the Singapore Maths approach which allows children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. The Singapore method of teaching mathematics develops pupils' mathematical skills and confidence without having to resort to memorising procedures to pass tests - making mathematics more engaging and interesting.

This term your child will be exploring the following topics:
- Problem solving
- Algebra
- Negative numbers
- Geometry
- Angles
- Graphs and data

In addition to this, there will be weekly arithmetic lessons in order to prepare for the end of KS2 test. Please ensure that your child knows all the multiplication tables up to 12 and can make division facts from them. The children will be bringing home any arithmetic tests they have completed in school. Please help your child review and practise any areas they are struggling with.
English

The English lessons include Big Reading, comprehension, spelling, grammar, handwriting and Big Writing.

Writing

The strategy used to teach English in the Juniors is ‘Big Writing’ which enables us to teach the children to produce written work that is interesting, grammatically accurate and correctly spelt. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types. Their writing is inspired by texts of different genres which are, wherever possible, linked to their project.

An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for ‘Big Writing’ I will be sending home weekly ‘Big Talk’ homework. This is designed to give parents an opportunity to discuss their child’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part.

The National Curriculum has a strong emphasis on spelling and grammar, and the children will be encouraged to focus on these elements of their writing, across all curriculum areas.

Reading

In Big Reading lessons, the children are taught strategies to use in written comprehension. Children will be taught to refer to the text to support their opinions and use action, dialogue and description to read between the lines, and to understand characters’ points of view. It is a requirement of the National Curriculum that children in Year 6 are able to read fluently and with accuracy; this is something that we would encourage parents to support at home. This term the children will be reading ‘1001 Arabian Nights’ by Geraldine McCaughrean.

In all classes, we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is essential, if your child is to achieve the expected standard for Year 6, that children read on a regular basis at home, both to an adult and independently. To support your child, I will be checking their reading records regularly.

Spelling

In spelling, the children will continue to be taught to understand and apply the concepts of word structure so that they can draw on their knowledge of morphology and etymology to spell correctly. The children will continue with the Read Write Inc Spelling Scheme and the ‘Spelling Bee’ competition. They will bring home lists of spellings to learn and will have weekly tests.

Reading Books

Reading books are changed regularly at school and children have the opportunity to change one book for another, as soon as they have finished. The class library book should go back and forth between school and home, on a daily basis. It is also important to remember that silent reading, and reading aloud, are separate skills, and it is important that children continue to practise both these skills. Any lost books must be paid for.
Science: This term we will be studying Light and Electricity.

Project: This term the children will be studying the Golden Age of Islam in the topic Baghdad 900AD. As part of this topic the children will explore how rivers influenced where ancient civilisations settled and the cultural impact of this time on life today.

Religious Education: During the first term the children will be finding out about the key features of worship and the community, founders of faiths and their importance for people today.

French: We teach French to all the junior classes, in Year 6 French will be taught by Mrs Croyden.

Art: The children will be looking at art and culture of the Middle East, investigating patterns and exploring Islamic design.

Music: This year the children will be working on developing keyboard skills.

Information and Communications Technology: Throughout this term children will explore a variety of topics including e-safety. We will be learning basic coding skills to create patterns, as well as continuing to develop skills in word processing, multimedia presentations and the use of safe search engines to research on the internet.

Physical Education: The theme for PE this term is dance from around the world. The children will also be doing balance and yoga. During your child’s games lessons they will be learning hockey.

PE kits should be in school every day i.e. brought in to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Your child will need white or navy sports shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt and trainers all labelled with their name in a named PE bag.

Homework: The school’s homework policy states that your child should be receiving a regular amount of homework not exceeding 3 hours per week.

Regular homework is as follows:
Monday – Children will bring home lists of spellings which will be tested weekly.
Thursday- Children will bring home Big Talk homework. This should be shared with an adult and is an important element of their Big Writing preparation which takes place on a Friday.
Friday – Grammar and Maths homework to be returned by the following Tuesday.

Arithmetic tests will be brought home fortnightly for children to review any errors made.

Class Trips: This term we will be going to the British Library to participate in a workshop on 'Mapping Our World'. Parent helpers are welcome.
Conclusion

Please feel free to attend our sharing assemblies which take place every Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m. – you are most welcome.

You will find up-to-date information in the school office, as well as the school website. We recommend that you download and register our school app, if you haven't already done so, as all the information you will need will be on there.

Please feel free to come to school to discuss any issues or concerns you may have; either make an appointment with myself, Ms Collum or Miss Martin.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and stimulating term.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Hutchinson
Class teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher