Year 6 Cedar
Class Teacher: Miss Hutchinson
Teaching Assistant: Miss Szczepaniak

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very much looking forward to teaching your child in this busy, exciting and final term at West Twyford.

This is a termly letter to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the term. It provides information about what is being planned for your child’s lessons, what 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:

- Solving word problems
- Geometry
- Graphs and data

Please ensure that your child knows all the multiplication tables up to 12 and can make division facts from them.

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 children’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part. The children will be adding to their Big Writing Portfolio and one of the key focus areas for development is using semi-colons, colons, dashes, hyphens, commas, speech marks and brackets.

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 stories of the Greek myths.

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.

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 fortnightly tests. In the weeks running up to the SATs we are doing daily spelling tests to revise the spelling patterns they have learnt throughout primary school.

Science

This term we will be studying Light and The Human Body.

Project

This term the children will be studying Ancient Greece. They will be looking at the history of the city states of Athens and Sparta. They will look at life in ancient Greece and the story of the Trojan horse.
Religious Education

This term, children will look at Prayer, Meditation and Inner Life.

French

We teach French to all the junior classes. There is a half-hour lesson every week and Year 6 will be taught by Mrs Croyden.

Art and DT

The children will explore using a variety of materials to produce a sculpture.

Music

This term 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. They will continue to develop skills in word processing, multimedia presentations, desktop publishing, data handling and the use of the Internet. The children will also be designing and programming maze games in Scratch.

Physical Education

Your child will continue to have two PE lessons per week – one delivered by the sports coach and one by the class teacher. The themes for PE will include team sports. During your child’s games lessons we will focus on small & large ball skills and learn the principles of games.

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, as well as socks and trainers all labelled with their name in a named PE bag.

Homework

Big Talk – The children’s assessments for writing are based on what the children write across all subjects in class. Therefore, to give your child the opportunity to do their best pieces of work we will periodically be sending Big Talk homework home. This should be shared with an adult and discussed as it is an important element of their Big Writing preparation. This homework must be return to school the next day.

Please remember to use our online learning resources i.e.Mathletics and Education City for which your child has user names and passwords.

SATs Tests

SATs Tests will take place in the week beginning Monday 13th May 2019.
Class Trips

This term we will be visiting The Globe Theatre on Friday 24th May 2019.

Leavers’ Assembly

The Leavers’ Assembly will be on Thursday 11th July 2019.

Notices

You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent out via the children’s book bags. Please check bookbags daily.

Parents are warmly welcomed to our sharing assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m.

Finally

The support of the family is immensely important where pupil progress is concerned. Here are some of the ways you can help your child make good progress at school:

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Ensure reading happens for a short period every day. Be a reader yourself. Encourage your child to read quietly; read to your child; have your child read to you or a sibling; talk with enthusiasm to your children about what they are reading; visit and join the local library.
- Ensure homework is done and returned on time. Encourage your child to relish the challenge of work that is difficult
- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them about the learning dispositions they use at school and encourage them to use them. Our West Twyford learning dispositions are: curiosity, bravery, independence, co-operation, creativity, resilience, discipline and making links.
- Praise your child for the effort they put into their learning.

I hope I have given you an insight into what is happening in this final term and answered any other queries which you may have had. I look forward to preparing your children for the next steps in their academic careers.

Please feel welcome to make an appointment with me, Ms Collum, the Deputy Headteacher, or Miss Martin, the Headteacher, if there is anything you need to discuss further.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging final term.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Hutchinson
Class Teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher