

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR 6

SPRING TERM FORECAST 2024

Our second term together ☺

Well done to all the children for their efforts last term. We are looking forward to another busy term with them. Below is information regarding the Spring Term for our Year 6 class. This term is especially important for the children as we work towards SATs tests in May.

ENGLISH

We are working on units based on our wider curriculum Frozen Kingdom topic. The children will be working on non-fiction writing all term, including letters of application, magazine articles and writing their own persuasive texts.

Our book for the next unit also fits in with our wider curriculum topic and is 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. This is a wonderful text, which will inspire many reading and writing activities. The children will be writing magazine articles based on this text.

The children will be focusing closely on carefully reading through their writing for sense and punctuation, ensuring their writing has precision and purpose. They will be practising writing both detailed and short sentences for effect, using ambitious vocabulary and conjunctions. The children will continue to work on their individual writing targets, alongside responding to our written and verbal feedback.

In English, the focus will be on understanding the differences between formal and informal language. To complement this, they will be investigating the use of: standard and non-standard English; direct and indirect speech; relative clauses, including the different ways to punctuate parentheses; and the use of the subjunctive mood and the passive form. They will also be focusing on the importance of adverbial links, synonyms, and other aspects of writing cohesively, both within and across paragraphs.

It is VERY important that children constantly practise spellings and spelling patterns from previous years, using the year 3-4 and 5-6 spelling lists as a guide. In spelling this term, will be: revising unknown spellings from previous terms, adding -fer to words, investigating rules for i before e except after c, looking at word families and focusing on Y5/6

statutory challenge words.

It is crucial that the children read regularly at home: the more they read, the more they will develop their vocabulary, which will further develop their writing. They should read for 20-30 minutes each day. This can be a book shared with an adult/sibling, independently or you may choose to read to your child and discuss a book together. We will be developing our reading comprehension skills throughout the term, focusing on a range of question types and skills. This is done as part of our regular English lessons as well as through assessment tasks.

MATHS

In the Spring term, we will be developing our understanding of: fractions, decimals, further building on previous knowledge of place value; percentages, including calculating percentages of amounts and solving associated puzzles and problems; algebra, using letters to represent values in sequences and calculations; beginning to use formulae; measures, converting between metric and imperial with problem solving; and calculating perimeter, area and volume; ratio and proportion, including understanding how ratios relate to fractions and using simple ratios to solve puzzles and 2 (and 3) step problems.

Please also ensure that the children regularly log on to **Mathletics, reading eggs and times table rockstars, alongside active learn games I have allocated them**. The children's mental maths skills and times table recall will only further improve with practice, giving them the confidence needed for the tests in May. If they have lost their login details, please make sure you let us know; the children do have them in their planners for reference.

SCIENCE

Our new topic is about light and builds on skills and knowledge learned from the light and shadows topic in Y3. We will be exploring more deeply the formation of shadows and reflections, also introducing the concept of light being refracted. The children will be planning their own investigations and evaluating the accuracy of these, whilst developing crucial scientific skills of recording data.

WIDER CURRICULUM: Frozen Kingdoms

We will spend the first couple of weeks looking at the sinking of the Titanic. As indicated above, this event will be linked to our writing in

English lessons. We will look at different sources of evidence and ask questions based on the information that we investigate.

Our focus will then shift to our geography topic learning about the Arctic and Antarctica. This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

RE

In RE this term, we will be looking at Buddhism and what it means to be a Buddhist. We will learn more about symbols associated with the Buddhist religion and the eightfold path which is followed by Buddhists. We are planning a trip to a Buddhist centre. More details to follow about this nearer the time. After the half term, we will then move onto the events of the first Easter and how this festival offers hope.

PSHE

The first half term we will be completing our SRE (sex and relationships education), considering how to keep our bodies healthy including diet, hygiene and mental health. The children will also learn more about changes that occur during puberty, how babies are made and how to develop safe, healthy and happy relationships.

We will also be continuing with our Compass for life lessons encouraging children to go for their dreams however big they seem. For this I am also looking for any parents who would like to come into school and share details of their professions and how they reached their goal. This would involve giving a short talk/presentation. This is incredibly rewarding and if you are able to support us in this please contact me by text or email to the school office - Thank you in advance for any volunteers we recruit!

ICT

We are completing a unit about animation, where the children will edit and refine still images, and make use of a time slider to animate multiple objects simultaneously creating their own short animation. We also complete many activities using the Chromebooks which we have access to every other week for a full week. This supports their learning across different curriculum areas.

PE

This term we are completing our dance unit, learning how to move competently as dancers to create rhythm and pace. A selection of the class

will be chosen to take part in the Barnet schools dance festival. We will also be engaging in other PE activities including rugby and cross country.

ART

Our work in art complements the learning in our Frozen Kingdoms unit. The children will be looking at Inuit art. They will be making tiles to create prints and experimenting with different paints. They will also be looking at artists that use the environment as their inspiration. These lessons will be taught by Mrs Geldart on Monday afternoons.

MUSIC

This half term, we will be starting a unit about jazz. All the learning is focused around two tunes: Bacharach Anorak and Meet the Blues. Children will listen and appraise the two main tunes and other supporting tunes; learn about the interrelated dimensions of music through playing instruments; and improvise, perform and share their music. After half term, we will be looking at the song, You've got a Friend, and other songs by Carole King. Using instruments, the children will create an engaging ensemble to compose the song, share and perform.

SATS!

In May, the children will be required to sit: a grammar test, a spelling test, three maths papers testing their arithmetic, calculation skills and problem solving/ reasoning skills and a reading comprehension test. The children's writing will be teacher assessed using work carried out throughout the year. This assessment is completed later, by mid June.

You can help your child to prepare for these tests by working with them on the revision books to increase **both** their skills and confidence. It is also a good idea to help them increase their stamina in working for longer periods of time, as the tests vary in time up to 60 minutes long. The main way you can really help is to be positive, relaxed and encouraging around any revision or discussion about SATs.

We will be conducting further assessments during the first and second half of this term, to assess the children's progress from this term's work and identify any areas that we need to cover and work on before the SATs in May.

Planners/organisation (great preparation for Year 7 ☺)

Please ensure your child has their planner with them each day and do look

at it with them regularly. It should not be kept in school. It should be in their bag and travel with them each day. Not only does this help them to be more organised, but is an opportunity for you to discuss their learning at home with them. If they need a new one, they may use a notebook of their choice or we can provide one in school. Please also support them in ensuring they are well equipped with stationery each day. We do random checks on these as they will in their secondary schools. Any problems please let us know. **It is very important that all the children have glue sticks and rubbers, as these are needed every day.** The pace of the lesson is slowed down if children are borrowing rubbers or glue sticks.

We look forward to celebrating many great achievements with your children throughout the term! As ever, please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you are concerned about anything, however small it may seem.

Many Thanks,
Mrs Horne & Mrs Mariou