

Year 6, Willow Class (Mr Wilmot);

Topic Planning Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

'A Frozen Habitat'



Literacy

Phonics and Spellings: Appropriate spellings will be given to learn each week, usually on a Tuesday and these will be supported by activities in class. As always the children will need support at home to learn these. Tests will usually take place on a Monday.

Reading: A guided reading group will take place twice a week. The children will still have a reading book to bring home daily... Don't forget the Reading Challenge! We are hoping to organise guided reading sessions for parents to come and share over the next term.

Punctuation and Grammar: This is a very important element within the new curriculum. The children will have daily activities in class followed by a set piece of homework, for example inverted commas, synonyms, exclamation marks and precise verbs to name but a few.

Writing Genres: This term we will concentrate and focus on explanation, discussion and debate.

Poetry: We will study the work of long established poets and try and replicate their style.

Drama: Where possible, we will incorporate drama to aid and revise the key skills and features within our topic areas.

Mathematics

It is very important that the children learn a number of skills and concepts in maths but that they can also apply them through solving problems and investigations in real life situations.

Number and Place Value: The children will revise and hone their knowledge of number up to 1,000,000 and to three decimal places.

Calculating: We will focus on methods for calculating within the four operations; +, -, ÷ and x; this will be through problem solving and investigative work based around real life contexts such as money, measure and using decimal notation.

Measures: We will revise our working knowledge of length, weight, height and time.

Data Handling: We will learn how to interpret data in a variety of formats and we will revise our knowledge of the averages and range.

TABLES: I will test the children regularly but would appreciate your assistance in encouraging your children to learn then practise their tables and extending their knowledge to include the inverse (division) facts. The children know which tables they need to learn.

Handwriting: Correctly joined, legible handwriting is encouraged at all times. The children will practise handwriting once a week with the intention that we see learnt skills within their own prose.



I.C.T.

We will continue to stress the importance of on-line safety and children will revise what they need to do to protect themselves online.

The children will use Kodu to enhance their programming knowledge and they will create games and programming tasks to demonstrate their coding knowledge.

We will study the implications of technology in our lives and we will use packages that will aid in our data handling maths unit.

French

We teach French through a number of activities such as drama, conversation, songs, DVD, stories, games and food. Over the coming term the children will extend their vocabulary and we will discuss and study the following areas in French:

Keeping fit, eating well, expressing opinions and learning about the tradition and culture of France.

I am in the process of trying to recruit the skills of a Secondary (Belvidere) teacher. Their teacher will hopefully visit our class on a fortnightly basis to help and assist Mrs Smith in the delivery of our French syllabus.



P.E.

The children continue to have a PE session on a Monday; this session is led by our resident and specialist sports teacher, Mr Howarth. In the first half of the term we will study invasion games, namely hockey, and in the second half we will look at dance.

The children need to have their PE kits in school every day. They should have a T-shirt, shorts, jogging bottoms (to keep warm outside) and suitable footwear such as trainers or pumps - a fresh pair of socks is advisable too in case we go outside and the children's feet get wet. If your child has earrings they will need to remove them for the session and children with long hair will need to tie it back; again this is for their own safety and the safety of other children in the class. PE is an imperative part of our curriculum and as such I will contact you so you are aware if your child forgets their kit on more than one occasion. If they can't partake in PE please inform me through a note/letter.

P.H.S.C.E.

Our themes are called "Money Matters" and "Who Likes Chocolate"

We will talk about the value of money. We will discuss lending and borrowing money and the variations of poverty. We will look at the concept of deductions and expenses and we will set goals and discuss the importance of achieving these. The second half of the term will be spent looking at trade movement, global footprints and collective responsibility.

We will also discuss and raise issues connected to British Values, Global Goals and our weekly article from the United Nations 'Rights of the Child Convention'.

R.E.

We will look at how different religions affect our lives; in doing so we will investigate the customs, beliefs and ceremonies of the Christian and Islam religion.

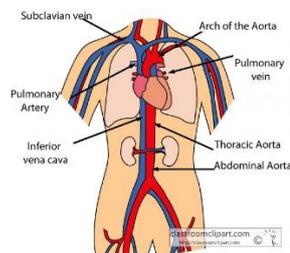
We will also consider and discuss the relevance of The Easter Story. Whilst doing so we will also celebrate the signs of new birth/growth and reflect on the changes that occur in Spring time.

Science

Light and Animals including Humans

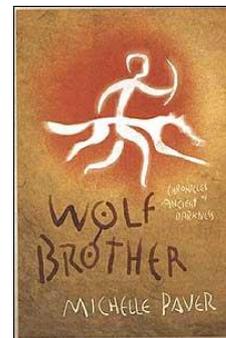
In the first part of the term we will investigate how we see, this will include learning about the anatomy of the eye, light refraction and we will investigate how to alter the shape and depth of shadows.

In the second half of the term we will complete our study of the Human Body, particularly a healthy diet and how exercise benefits our bodies. We will look at the human circulatory system and the function of the lungs and heart.



Art

We will look at, use and try out techniques used by Geoff Taylor, the illustrator of Wolf Brother - again this links to our term's overarching topic/theme.



We will use our sketch books to create our interpretations of the content found within the books selected by the Shrewsbury BookFest.

Design and Technology

This term's focus relates to our Science 'Electricity' and 'Light' Units and our topic work 'The Frozen Habitat'. The children will be tasked with designing a torch for an Arctic explorer that is both effective and durable.

Geography

We have chosen to study Alaska as our 'Frozen Habitat' country.

The children will use a variety of sources to identify the position of Alaska on a World map and we will compare it to The United Kingdom. We will look at many areas including the country's natural resources, climate, wildlife and its people.

Homework:

- Daily reading, time tables and spellings
- Weekly maths challenge
- Weekly maths or literacy homework
- SAT revision and past papers

Homework is usually given on a Friday and it should be returned on a Wednesday, unless otherwise stated. The children will be attending Booster sessions over the next term. These sessions will take place on 2-3 afternoons a week and are designed to assist your child and prepare them for the forthcoming SAT exams. The sessions will last for approximately one hour each day and will concentrate on honing and progressing Maths, Reading and Grammar skills. We will also share exam tips and guidance; to ensure the smooth running of these sessions it might be appropriate, on occasions, to give more homework. The homework will form the basis of our sessions and it is imperative that your child completes it to the deadlines given. I will endeavour to keep you as informed as possible about developments in class via the new website. I will also try to encourage and progress any transition opportunities Belvidere offer to enable the children to get used to the school and life in secondary in preparations for their progression this coming September.