



Year 6 Advent 1 Newsletter

Welcome back and welcome to the exciting class – that is Year Six! We hope you have all had a perfect, well-deserved break and are prepared for the year ahead. We have planned a lot of the amazing learning experiences for this half term and we hope you really enjoy them. Although Year 6 is a hard year it is also a fun and enjoyable year. That teachers and children have always enjoyed in the past.

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

Persuasive letters

Using the video 'There is a monster in my kitchen', (Greenpeace), we will be looking at the different environmental problems that are happening in the Amazon Rain Forest in South America. We will be writing in role as the little boy, (**writing a formal letter**), trying to persuade Mrs Quirke that we are eating too much meat and that we need more plant based food in our canteen. There's a Monster in my Kitchen is an animated short film that tells the story of a young boy who learns of the heart-breaking reality of rampant deforestation in places like the Amazon from Jag-wah the jaguar. During this unit, we will be focusing on features, such as: present tense, time and logical connectives, emotive language, persuasive phrases and a rhetorical question.

Biography

During this half term we will be looking at the book 'The Dreamer', which is written by Pam Munoz Ryan. The book follows the early experiences of Neftali Reyes, a boy who is spellbound by the wonders of the natural world and grows into the man that we know as the Nobel Prize winning poet Pablo Neruda. Ryan's love of language and her ability to integrate meticulously researched details with a fictional tale. The children will be writing a biography on Neftali Reyes, they will be researching different aspects of his life and then using their research to write a detail account. They will look at the features of a biography, which include: written in formal language, use of compound and complex sentences, containing connectives. Written in the past tense and usually written in chronological order (in time order).

Non-Chronological Report

After learning about the different countries which make up South America, we will be looking at the Andes mountain range, which runs down the west coast of South America and creating a non-chronological report about. During this unit, we will be focusing on our structural devices, such as: sub-headings, bullet points, diagrams and fact boxes. We will also be considering our formality and tone and technical and factual language.

Maths

In Maths, this half term we will be using Power Maths and White Rose. As mathematicians, we will be focusing on:

- Place Value

We will be focusing on numbers and place value of digits in numbers up to 1 million and 10 million. We will compare, order and round numbers to 10 million using our place value knowledge. We will also look at negative numbers in context (e.g temperature) using number lines.

- Four operations

We will revisit the methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication (4 digits by 2 digits) and division (4 digits by 2 digits). We will also focus on problem solving and using efficient methods to reason.

- Fractions

Within this unit we will focus on simplifying fractions, fractions on a number line, compare and order fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and problem solving using fractions.

R.E

Our focus for RE this half term will be loving. During our loving unit, we will be exploring what family means to us and what we associate with the word family. We will explore how God is the loving parent of the human family and Jesus was born and lived in a human family. Also, we will focus on some key qualities and how they show love; compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. We will also touch on how forgiveness is part of loving and not holding grudges.

Why is South America in the News?

Our topic this term will focus on Geography, in particular South America. Throughout this topic, we will explore the countries and capital cities of some South American countries. We will also explore the effects of rainforest deforestation which is currently occurring to retrieve palm oil to make a range of products.

Here is an outline of our learning for this half term; In **week one, as geographers**, we will locate the countries within South America and their capital cities using atlases. We will recap how to use the atlas and grid references to find different countries and capital cities, using a key.

In **week two, as geographers**, we will explore the human and physical features of South America. We will recap how human features are man-made and physical features are natural. We will also create a fact file, using Book Creator, about some of the key features within South America, such as: Statue of Christ the Redeemer, Amazon rainforest, Iguazu Falls, Machu Piccu, Maroni River, Lake Titicaca and La Mano.

In **week three, as geographers**, we will research why rainforests are being destroyed. We will recap the knowledge learnt in Year 3 and create our own mini rainforest and recap the different layers of the rainforest. We will focus on why rainforests are so important, why they are being destroyed and the impact this is having globally. We will create persuasive posters to help end deforestation.

In **week four, as geographers**, we will consider what it is like to live in South America. Firstly, we will recap the South American countries. We will then look at Sao Paulo to research in depth and create a fact file about the city. We will be focusing on: where this country is located, climate, currency, population, language spoken, capital, religion, landmarks/physical features, economy, foods, people, animals and other interesting facts.

In **week five, as geographers**, we will learn about Incas and understand that Inca's are South American Indians who, at the time of the Spanish conquest in 1532, ruled an empire that extended along the Pacific coast and Andean highlands from the northern border of modern Ecuador to the Maule River in central Chile. We will then explore the Inca Empire and create a booklet explaining who the Incas were, how they built an empire, what life was like in the Inca Empire, royals, the Sapa Inca, schools, food, inventions, what they wore, what happened to the Inca Empire etc.

In **week six, as geographers**, we look at why there is a statue of Jesus in Rio. Why is this statue so important to the locals? Why do so many people from around the world travel to this place every year?

Next half term, as historians, we will be focusing on World War Two in our topic, 'How did World War Two affect the people of Britain?'

Guided Reading

Our Guided Reading text for this half term is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K.Rowling. As readers, we will be reading this text as a class and answering a range of different questions relating to this text. We will be paying particular attention to retrieval questions and considering the authors choice to support our understanding of the text.

Turning the envelope over, his hand trembling, Harry saw a purple wax seal bearing a coat of arms; a lion, an eagle, a badger and a snake surrounding a large letter 'H'.

Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!

Having become classics of our time, the Harry Potter eBooks never fail to bring comfort and escapism. With their message of hope, belonging and the enduring power of truth and love, the story of the Boy Who Lived continues to delight generations of new readers.

How can you help?

Weekly Homework

- Homework will be set on a Friday and will need to be completed by the following Friday. If you have any trouble accessing homework online or would prefer a paper copy, please come and see me and I can arrange this for you.
- Every week your child will receive spellings. The spelling test will take place on a Friday morning. Please practise these spellings with your child at home!
- Spelling Shed – please ensure your child is accessing this regularly at home, there are certificates and rewards for children who access this! If your child has misplaced their login, please let me know.
- TT Rockstars – please ensure your child is accessing this regularly at home too, it is extremely important that they regularly practice and apply their multiplication and division knowledge.
- Remember to read every night with your child and sign their diary too!

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions about your child's learning or progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mr Robinshaw and Mrs Ginnis.