



Year 6

Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas with your families and that the children had a well-earned rest over the holidays. Please have a read of this half-term's newsletter and also the curriculum map on our class page of the website for more information.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lonsdale ☺

What do I need to know and bring to school?

Monday	Reading book and diary	My new homework is assigned and my weekly spellings are sent home.		
Tuesday	Reading book and diary			
Wednesday	Reading book and diary	I have PE today with Team Theme.		
Thursday	Reading book and diary	I have PE today with Team Theme.		
Friday	Reading book and diary	My homework must be complete by today.	My weekly spellings are tested today.	

SATS 2024

This term, Mrs Cornwell and I will hold a meeting with parents to share information about the end of KS2 assessments which will take place in May. Unless anything changes, the dates for the SATs are as follows:

Date	Exam
Monday 13 May 2024	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling - Paper 1 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling - Paper 2
Tuesday 14 May 2024	English Reading
Wednesday 15 May 2024	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
Thursday 16 May 2024	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

It is always my intention to provide children with a broad and balanced curriculum, without focusing on SATs and over testing the children. However, revision of concepts taught is always recommended. The CGP revision books are ideal for this and also contain answers at the back so children can self-assess. These can be purchased at <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/>

Past SATs papers can also be accessed for free at:

<https://www.satspapers.org.uk/Page.aspx?TId=5> Again, the answers can also be downloaded.

Answers on their own are not helpful, though, so if you find your child is struggling at home, I would recommend the Mr Wall's Youtube videos where he provides walkthroughs and explanations of each question.

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrWall/videos>

Children can further practise using the activities I have uploaded to the Year 6 class page:



<https://www.greenlands.lancsngfl.ac.uk/class/year-6/>

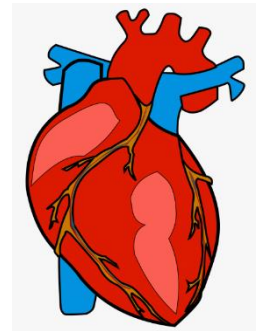
Curriculum

Please have a look at the Year 6 curriculum map on the Year 6 class page under the Spring 1 heading. I have given a snapshot of some of the exciting topics your child will be learning about throughout this half term.

Science

What systems keep the body alive?

Children will be taught about the different components of blood. They learn that red blood cells carry oxygen, white blood cells fight infection, platelets help to prevent bleeding, and that plasma is the medium in which these components are suspended. Children describe the functions of red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma, and create a blood bag which will then be labelled to show the percentage of each component by volume in a typical sample of blood. We will also be carrying out investigations to see the relationship between exercise and heart rate, as well as learning how to maintain a healthy heart.



Geography

Where does our energy come from?

Throughout this topic, children will learn to:

- Describe the significance of energy.
- Give examples of sources of energy and their trading routes.
- Define renewable and non-renewable energy.
- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of different energy sources.
- Describe the significance of the Prime Meridian.
- Identify human features on a digital map.
- Discuss how transport links have changed over time.
- Locate UK cities on a map.

- Use six-figure grid references to identify features on an OS map.
- Consider and justify the location of energy sources.
- Design and use interview questions.
- Plot points on a sketch map.



Art

Print and Activism

We begin by introducing children to the idea that art can be used to express the opinions of artists, who in turn speak for sectors of society. Artists can be activists, and many artists choose print as a way to make their art, as it allows them to reproduce their artwork so that it can reach many people.



Homework

Homework and spellings are sent home every Monday and must be returned on or before the Friday. If homework is not returned on or before the Friday, then children will complete their homework during their own time.



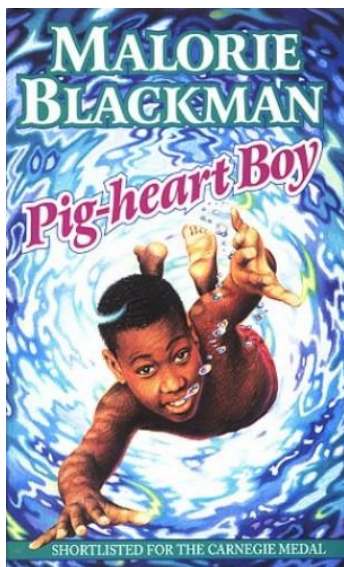
Reading

Our new approach to guided reading in school is already showing a positive impact. Every day, the children are reading independently for 25 minutes before completing an activity related to the pages they have read. My observations have shown that the children's reading stamina has begun to improve. However, we still have room to improve further. Please support your child's learning at home by reading with them and discussing what they have read. Please remember reading ability has a considerable impact on both educational

attainment and wider life outcomes. Research finds robust associations between reading ability and educational success, and reading enjoyment and reading behaviour appear to be key mechanisms in this relationship.

TT Rockstars

Children will continue accessing TT Rockstars from school to practise their fluency and speed when recalling times tables and associated division facts. Please remember to continue accessing this at home. This knowledge will be invaluable come the SATs!



Class Story

Our class book, which we will read every day, is Pig Heart Boy by Marjorie Blackman. It's about a thirteen-year-old boy called Cameron whose heart is failing. He needs a heart transplant - fast. A pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart: a heart from a pig. It's a weird idea. But Cameron is fed up with sitting on life's sidelines, unable to play sport or swim. He has to give it a try - even if it means becoming the world's first pig-heart boy. It's a powerful, thought-provoking story which tackles hefty issues!