Year 6: Spring Term Newsletter 2021

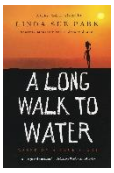
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hello again! First of all, Happy New Year; we hope that you have had a happy and healthy Christmas and were able to relax. While it has been a very strange start to the spring term, it is amazing to see how quickly the children – and the whole family – have adapted to remote learning. As always, ensuring a smooth transition from the classroom to google classroom has been extremely important to us and staff have been working hard to ensure that the children's education is not interrupted and is delivered effectively via google classroom. It has been such a boost for us to see the children through the wonderful means of technology!
We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your continuing support and involvement and if you need anything at all, please just ask.

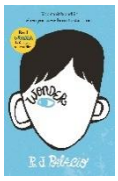
Many thanks,

Mrs Bennett and Miss Walker

English



Our English curriculum allows the children to write with imagination and explore books of all types, whether it is escaping into the world of characters in fiction or finding out about the world and beyond with non-fiction. As Geography will be driving the Spring term, our focus in Year 6 will be water. With this in mind, we will be introducing a new text within our English lessons called, **'A Long Walk to Water.' By Linda Sue Park.** Again, this term we will be writing exciting narrative stories, poetry, and journalistic work. Year 6 have already captivated us with their narrative stories using flashbacks – they were amazing and we were extremely impressed particularly as this was their first piece of extended writing during remote learning. Throughout the term, we will be carrying out arguments of debate, formal and explanation writing, which will include a report on how human and physical geography could be affected by war. The children will also be considering how the thoughts, emotions and feelings of the characters within the book develop in order to write emotively within diary entries.



We will also be reading**, 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio.** The children will also study many reading passages, including SATs reading papers so that they build upon their inference, deduction, skimming and scanning skills. We will also practise our spoken language skills, alongside correct use of grammar formulations and terminology.

Maths

Every day we practise and develop oral and mental skills through a variety of games, formal mental arithmetic tests and quizzes.
Topics this term include:

Fractions, including decimals and percentages

Multiply simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form, divide proper fractions by whole numbers, associate a fraction with division and calculate decimal fraction equivalents for a simple fraction, identify the value of each digit in numbers given to three decimal places and multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 giving answers up to three decimal places, multiply one-digit numbers with up to two decimal places by whole numbers, use written division methods in cases where the answer has up to two decimal places, solve problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy, recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts.

Measurement

Solve problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure, using decimal notation up to three decimal places where appropriate, use, read, write and convert between standard units, converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa, using decimal notation to up to three decimal places, convert between miles and kilometres, use four operations with mass, length, time, money and other measures, including with decimal quantities, create a scaled model of a historical or geographical structure showing an acceptable degree of accuracy using known measurements

Ratio and proportion

Solve problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts, solve problems involving the calculation of percentages [for example, of measures, and such as 15% of 360] and the use of percentages for comparison, solve problems involving similar shapes where the scale factor is known or can be found, solve problems involving unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples.

Algebra

Use simple formulae, generate and describe linear number sequences, express missing number problems algebraically, find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknown numerate possibilities of combinations of two variables. Recognise an arithmetic progression, and find the nth term

Geometry – properties of shapes

Draw 2-D shapes using given dimensions and angles, recognise, describe and build simple 3-D shapes, including making nets, compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and find unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons, illustrate and name parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and know that the diameter is twice the radius, recognise angles where they meet at a point, are on a straight line, or are vertically opposite, and find missing angles.

Science

We are studying two main topics this term:

Living things and their habitats

Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals, give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

Evolution and inheritance

Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents, identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

There are quite a few AT1 investigations in these topics so it will be practical and fun!

British Science week (5 – 14th March) During this week we will be linking STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to other curriculum subjects and to students' own backgrounds, lives and interests to enhance their understanding about the world around us.

RE

Three topics will be studied this term: firstly 'Sources', next, 'Unity' and finally, 'Death and New Life'. This term, we will be learning and showing a deeper understanding of Lent and Holy Week.

Computing

We are studying e-safety, programming, handling data and multimedia. Children will also design, write and debug programs that accomplish a specific goal, including controlling simulating physical systems.

We will also be finding out exciting factual information linked to our Geography project this term, which is all about Water.

PE will continue when we return to school.

We encourage daily exercise at home and useful online sessions such as PE with Joe Wicks and taking regular daily exercise as a family.

PSHE

PSHE will be taught through our scheme of work, Jigsaw which will cover the following themes throughout the year: Celebrating Difference and Dreams and Goals. The children's health and well-being is so important and their resilience has been particularly tested over the last 10 months. With this in mind, it's so important that we do everything we can to nurture and support the children's mental health and well-being. We will be suggesting mindfulness activities for the children to complete at home.

Our Curriculum

At St Bede's we like to link subjects together in a cross-curricular approach and have a general thread of the Geography theme running through most of the curriculum this term. The **Geography** topic in Year 6 is **the Water Cycle**. In linking with our English text, 'A Long Walk to Water' we will also be looking at the human and physical Geography of Africa, paying particular attention to Sudan.

We will look at many different aspects of water through our curriculum subjects:

In **Art**, we will look at how we can visually show water through photography and we will again be making close links to English, focusing upon African art and print designs.

For **DT**, we will explore how water-focussed charities (such as Water Aid) advertise and raise both money and awareness through use of t-shirts and create our own.

In **French** this term, we will be focussing on learning directions and asking where places are. We will also revise days of the week, months of the year and sports and hobbies. We will work towards developing our vocabulary and speaking in sentences.

English will be a main focus and lots of poetry and story writing will be created through story-based drivers, such as A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park.

History While Geography is driving our Spring Term, we will also be looking at Medicine throughout the ages within History.

Music We will continue to use Charanga and Oak National Academy to deliver interactive Music lessons.