

# Welcome to Y5 and Y6! Autumn Term

A warm welcome to Y5 and Y6. We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school in September. We know how exciting and hard-working being in Upper KS2 can be, so we want to support you in every way we can. Some of you are in the last year of Primary School too! You will receive information about whole school issues through school newsletters, but we also wanted to send you our own information about Class 11 and 12 through a newsletter – so here is the first one of the year. Feel free to pop into our classes if you feel you need more information or to

have a look at your child's work. Thanks so much,  
Mrs Ryan/Mrs Wilson and Mr Barber/Mrs Horner

## English

This term, our English begins by looking at *Wonder* by RJ Palacio and a video called 'Little Freak'. This links to our PHSE topics and gives children the opportunity to empathise whilst improving their writing skills.

In our reading sessions we will practise comprehension skills to help improve our understanding of vocabulary, inference skills and using evidence from the text to justify an answer.

Grammar, punctuation, spelling and handwriting will be practised daily in class. Children will be tested regularly on their spellings and encouraged to use the spellings they learn in their writing. We will explore how sentences can be written using different structures using semi-colons, colons and dashes and how speech is punctuated.

## Maths

To make sure that we are ready to rise to the challenge of Year 5 and 6, we are focusing on the four basic number rules so that we can use and apply them to all maths topics. Times tables and mental arithmetic will be practised daily to improve our rapid recall skills. Please support your child in learning all of their times tables – a secure knowledge will make KS2 maths much easier! The main areas we will cover this term are:

- Place value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Division
- Position and Direction
- Fractions

## Science

We will begin by having a closer look inside the human body. We will explore the structure of the heart & lungs. The double circulation through the lungs and the rest of the body is explained and children learn more about blood! How does exercise affect pulse rate? Why is exercise good for us & what can harm the heart & lungs? The children will be doing lots of experiments and working as scientists to explain about the heart and how important it is to stay healthy and keep a healthy heart.

## RE

The focus of this term's R.E work is Love and commitment. We will look at the love of our families and friends and discuss the idea that there are different types of love, including God's unconditional love for us. Our scripture work will help us to understand that forgiveness is an essential part of unconditional love and that we can grow in love and that God never stops loving. We will also take a close look at vocation where we look at the sacrament of Holy Orders. We will also study Judaism.

## PE

In P.E the children will learn about gymnastics. They will practise various techniques and how balance, roll and control their bodies. The children will build on their sequencing skills and will make their own gymnastics routine. Lessons are brilliantly delivered by Mr Poole, our expert PE coach. PE is on a Tuesday so remember to have PE Kits in school (White tops/black shorts and trainers).

Swimming is in a 2 week block, which begins on November 1<sup>st</sup> until November 12<sup>th</sup> (inclusive).

## Computing

There is a lot going on in Computing this term because we are producing our own PowerPoint presentations linked with our WW1 project – researching the internet for historical facts about life in this era. This term children will be studying: Young Authors, Internet Risks, Stocks & Shares and Gaming. Please encourage safe internet use at home and good and legal use of social networks.

## History

We are really looking forward to learning about World War 1 this year. In our topic, we will learn about the many causes of WW1, and the impact it had. Children will learn about how Thornaby was instrumental in the war effort. We would be extremely grateful if you could support your child by sharing any information or resources that you may have which might aid their studies, particularly artefacts and information on local history.

## Art, Music and D&T

In art, we will be beginning with a Black History Month focus, linked to our history work. We will look at the work of Kwame Akoto-Bamfo, a Ghanaian sculptor, who used his skills to create the Ancestor Project – portraits of Africans who were imprisoned, kidnapped or coerced into slavery.

In music, we will learn about songs from other countries, with a focus on France. We will translate and perform our own French song. TVMS will also be coming in to teach us ukulele each week!

In D and T, the children will be looking at Homan Walsh and the story of how he used a kite to help build the Niagara Falls Bridge. We will design, make and evaluate our own kites after researching the different parts of a kite and their functions.

## Homework

Children in year 5 and 6 are required to do homework almost every night. The amount of homework given is carefully thought out and should never take more than one hour to complete. Each child is expected to read at least 20 minutes per night and spend 10 minutes on any tables and spellings which they are going to be tested on. Please continue to support your child with this homework as needed.

Each week children will have a Grammar/Reading Task and Maths task to complete for the following week.