



Class 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term One 2021

Class Teacher—Mrs Eager

Topic

Our topic for this half term is Africa. This will mainly be a Geography focus, looking at the Human and Physical aspects of the continent. We will focus on The Ancient Kingdom of Benin (now known as Nigeria) for our History topic, but will encompass other aspects of African History, including Art, Music and Technology.

English

Pupils will be studying different elements of GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling). This will help to raise the level of their writing. The children will be developing their comprehension skills of reading for information during guided reading. They also have access to a wide range of non-fiction books from our class reading corner for quiet reading and independent topic research.

English Fiction

Children will have the opportunity to write descriptions of characters and setting, whilst telling an adventure story in sequence. Our class text this half-term is 'The Iron Woman' written by Ted Hughes (who lived in Mexborough during his childhood) with a link to our Science unit of 'Magnets and Forces'. We will also study some African fiction, such as 'Mama Panya's Pancakes' (a village tale from Kenya) by Mary and Rich Chamberlin, to support our understanding of the lives of people in Africa.

Non-Fiction

The children will be writing information texts, recounts and non-chronological reports linked to the topic. This will include texts regarding Magnets and Forces, as well as Africa.

Mathematics

The focus for the first four weeks will be on **Number - Place Value**. We will work on recognising and representing 4-digit numbers, rounding, comparing and ordering. We will work on both positive and negative numbers and learn how to read and work with Roman Numerals.

The next three weeks will be on **Number - Addition and Subtraction**. We will work on adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s. Then we will introduce column addition strategies and develop the skills needed to add and subtract up to 4-digit numbers that require an exchange, including learning how to estimate answers and use checking strategies to develop efficient calculation skills. Each week children will have opportunity to develop their number fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

We will also continue to focus on the knowledge and application of **times tables**, where the children will be able to answer multiplication questions that require rapid mental recall as well as applying this knowledge to related division facts.

History and Geography

Children will be studying the Ancient Kingdom of Benin in our History lessons. They will be researching how they lived, the challenges they faced, what was important to their way of life and inventions they created. We will be comparing and contrasting their lives to the lives of other civilizations and our own. We will look at this region in Geography lessons, now modern-day Nigeria, but develop this into a study of the whole continent of Africa. We will explore the different countries and physical features, such as mountains and rivers, as well as the climate and weather. We will also look at the human geography of the continent, exploring how the people of Africa have different lives, depending upon where they live.

Science

Through a topic called Forces and Magnets, we will:

- compare how things move on different surfaces
- notice that some forces need contact between 2 objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance
- observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials
- describe magnets as having 2 poles
- predict whether 2 magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

Art and Design

Linked to our topic of Africa, the children will look at traditional art styles and re-create these, using a range of materials and media (sketching pencils, paints, water colours and clay, to create artistic work with their own interpretation and creative slant. We will also design and make some traditional African instruments to use when performing our music.

PSHE

As part of Jigsaw topic of 'Being Me In My World', we will discuss rules, rights and responsibilities. We will be exploring personal goals and challenges and how we can make appropriate choices, such as caring for other people's feelings. The children will be given time and space to express their feelings, worries and concerns.

Religious Education

To link with the PSHE Jigsaw programme, we will be following the 'Discovery R.E.' scheme. Each year group will study Christianity and another World Faith throughout the year. Class 6 will study Judaism. This term our objective is to understand how special the relationship Jews have with God is.

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

This term we will revise the names of colours and body parts, using conversational French and practical sessions, including the use of songs and games, to help develop a love and understanding of this language.

PE kits

This half-term, we will have P.E. lessons on Monday and Tuesday each week. Children need to bring PE kits to school on **Monday**, in preparation for their lessons. The correct PE kit of white t-shirt and black shorts is expected along with appropriate footwear. All children must have appropriate PE kit and should not wear any jewellery including earrings. Our focus this half-term will be 'Health and Fitness' and 'Ball Skills'.

School times.

During this current time, Class 6 will begin their day at 8.50am. You are welcome to stand with your child in the square to the left, nearest the school but please ensure you are socially distancing from other parents. I will come out and ring the bell at 8.50am, when the children will need to line up in front of the Class 6 cone. Mrs Winstanley will then escort the children into class, where they will be able to start a morning activity. I will be available to speak to parents about any urgent issues at that time. Home time pick up is at 3:05pm. The gates will be unlocked at 2:55pm to allow parents to wait inside the playground. We will bring the children out and line them up at the Class 6 cone and ask them to point out their grown up. It is important that they can identify an adult so that we know who they are going home with. Please do not call them over if we haven't seen you. We will get used to all of the new faces soon and this will speed up the process. Once we see you, your child will be free to join you. If you need to speak to me, please wait until all the other children have been handed over to their parents, so we can concentrate on this aspect of their safety.

Homework

Homework is given out to all children on a Friday and will need to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Creative homework linked to our topic will be set each half term. Please can your child also read at home at least three times a week and make sure they bring their reading record and reading book to school each day. Spellings and times tables will be given out on a Friday for your child to learn ready for a test on the following Friday.

Visits and Family Learning Sessions

Due to current restrictions, we will not be having any family learning sessions or educational visits until further notice. However, we will be planning visits as soon as possible.

Learning Behaviours

All children at our school have a right to learn and reach their full potential. To encourage our children to continue developing the right attitude towards learning there are systems in place including rewards and sanctions. We always aim to focus on praising the positive behaviour demonstrated. Our dojo system is an effective method of promoting positive behaviour. We have also introduced a traffic light system to encourage 'green behaviour'. Children who display positive behaviour will remain on green. If inappropriate behaviour is shown, a warning is given. If the child does not make the right choice, their name will be moved to amber. Should the child immediately improve his/her behaviour and follow instructions given by an adult, their name is moved back up to green. Any more serious incidents will result in their name being moved straight to red. Any child who stays on green all week will result in a message sent to parents with the good news.

School Contact Details

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If you need to have a word with your child's teacher please arrange an appointment after school when they will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.