



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.

Please note a change with the PE sessions this half-term

Best wishes,

Mrs Lonsdale ☺

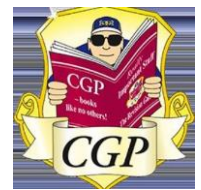
What do I need to know and bring to school?

Monday	Reading book and diary	My new homework and spellings are sent home		
Tuesday	Reading book and diary	If I play the violin, my lesson is today		
Wednesday	Reading book and diary			
Thursday	Reading book and diary	I have PE today with Team Theme		
Friday	Reading book and diary	I have PE with Mrs Lonsdale	I must return my completed homework and spellings	I have a spelling test today

SATS 2023

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

- **Tuesday 9 May 2023:** Spelling, punctuation and grammar (Grammar/Punctuation Test) – 45 minutes
- **Tuesday 9 May 2023:** Spelling, punctuation and grammar (Spelling Test) – 20 minutes
- **Wednesday 10 May 2023:** Reading Test – 60 minutes
- **Thursday 11 May 2023:** Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) – 30 minutes
- **Thursday 11 May 2023:** Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning) – 40 minutes
- **Friday 12 May 2023:** Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning) – 40 minutes



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>

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.

Outdoor Learning Project:

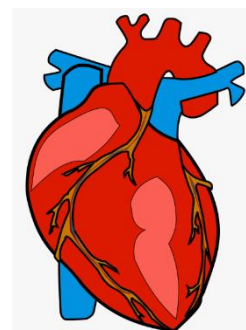
From Friday 14th January, Mrs Phillips will be delivering her outdoor learning project with the children each Friday afternoon for five weeks. Thank you to those parents who returned the form to say that your children's work can be submitted as part of her project. There is still time to return letters if you wish. If your child has wellies, please can they be brought into school as much of the work will be taking part on the field. We do have some spares in school, but it would be really appreciated if your child could bring in their own. It is essential that they come to school wearing a warm waterproof coat.



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 pie chart showing 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 food come from?

Children have already learnt that food comes from plants or animals and that it has to be grown, reared or caught before it is produced or processed in different ways. However, in Year 6, we will dig a little bit deeper and look at how the physical and human features of various countries determine the kinds of food that is grown, reared or caught. We will analyse data from the Global Hunger Index and learn why, when the world produces more than 1.5 times enough food to feed everyone on the planet, there are still people starving in certain parts of the world.



Year 6 trip

To enhance our learning about where our food comes from, we will be visiting Laund Farm and experience what life is like on a working farm. It's the perfect time to have cuddles with lambs and, if we're lucky, we may even see some being born! More details to follow soon.



Design and Technology

How can I create a dish without eating up the miles?

In our 'food' unit, we will explore pizzas, discovering what a variety of toppings and bases look like, taste like and feel like. We will then have the challenge of designing and making pizzas to meet a design brief and evaluate it based on the criteria. When designing our healthy pizzas, we will be conscious of the ingredients and how we can reduce the food miles. This links perfectly with our geography topic- where does our food come from?



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.



Spellings

Spelling is taught in class daily; however, children will also bring home the words that they are learning in class to practise at home. These sheets must be returned with their homework on or before the Friday. The number of words assessed will vary depending on your child's spelling focus. Your child will be assessed on these words every Friday. I will also add in extra words that they have not seen, nor practised, but which follow the same spelling rule.

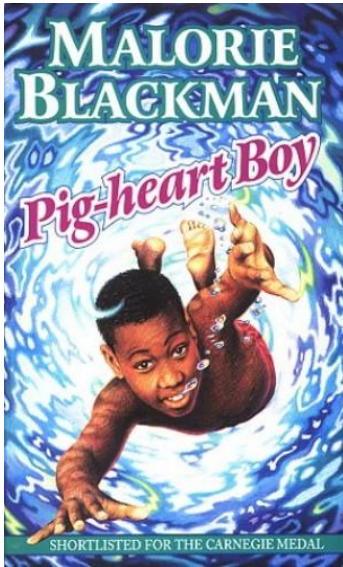
Reading

Children are expected to read at least three times at home per week. Even in their final year of primary school, children still love to read to their parents and benefit enormously. Please encourage your child to read and sign their diary whenever they do. Children will be rewarded weekly and entered into a raffle where they could win a prize at the end of each half term. Children who don't read three times will catch up in their own time during school.

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!