

St. Andrew's Newsletter Autumn 1 2023

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer holidays and the children are looking forward to their new class this year.

Information

Children in years five and six are able to walk home from school unaccompanied once permission has been given by parents. Letters have been sent home - parents of year six please could you send in the slip to replace any permission given last year.

If your child uses Acorns, please could you ensure that your child knows if they are attending and if plans change, please inform the office. If a child is written in the book for after school sessions, they will not be allowed to walk home.

The children will be swimming throughout the Autumn term, please look out for the letter in their bag. They should wear their uniform on swimming days, but no tights please and they will need a coat as the weather will soon become cooler.

PE

As well as swimming on Thursdays, the children will also have cricket on a Tuesday so should come to school dressed in their PE kit on this day. Where possible the sessions will be outdoors so the children will need to be dressed appropriately according to the uniform policy. To ensure the children have their full entitlement to PE, they will also have a short yoga session each week- Year 6 on a Tuesday and Year 5 on a Wednesday. They should wear their uniform for these sessions but need to make sure they are comfortable and may want to wear trousers or bring leggings to put under dresses or skirts.

Homework

The children will be given homework on a Monday, and this should be handed in on a Friday morning. Spellings will put onto the school website on a Monday and will not be given as a paper copy. Please go to the St. Andrew's page on the website and look on the homework and spelling page. The children should complete three different spelling activities in their books - please look in the front of the homework books for suggestions. The children are also expected to read to an adult three times a week and have this recorded in their reading records. There is no set day for the children to change their reading books, they may choose a new one when they have finished their current book. Finally, they should complete Times Tables Rock Stars a minimum of three times a week.

Throughout the year there will be homework projects set - the first one will be this half term and details will follow shortly.

Curriculum

English - We will be reading the novel *The Boy in the Striped pyjamas* by John Boyne. We will use this book to stimulate ideas for writing and for our reading comprehension. Writing tasks will include character analysis, letter writing, writing from a different point of view, playscripts and diary entries. Please encourage your child not to read ahead of what we are doing in class as this can make it tricky for them to complete tasks using their own ideas.

Maths - The children will be taught in two groups to allow them to cover the objectives appropriate to them. All the children will start with place value, looking at the makeup of different numbers, the values of the digits, rounding and negative numbers. We will then move on to the different number operations with year 5 concentrating on addition and subtraction and year 6 moving onto longer multiplication and division.

Science - The children will be looking at forces and extending prior knowledge. They will be looking at friction, air resistance, water resistance, balanced and unbalanced forces and the use of mechanisms. There will be a mixture of investigation, research and practical work throughout the topic.

History - We are looking at World War Two, beginning with the causes of the war, which countries were involved and significant leaders. They will look at significant events through the duration of the conflict and the social impact of the war - rationing, evacuation, the role of women and the Holocaust. A list of recommended reads has been sent out - these books will allow the children the opportunity to find out more about this topic.

PSHE - We will be working with *Commando Joe's* to complete different missions and build on our teamwork and communication skills.

RE - The topic for the first half term is *Why is being good so important to Hindus?*

Computing - Year 5 Online safety and Year 6 will be using a Purple Mash programme to test, evaluate and then create their own games.

French - Year 5 will be revising some of their previously learnt vocabulary and then looking at a topic called *getting to know you* which will allow them to ask and answer questions and work on expression and pronunciation and Year 6 will be looking around the French town.

Art - This half term the children will look at the work of the impressionist painter Monet. They will use their painting skills to recreate some of his most famous works.

If you or your child has any questions, please ask.

Regards,

Rebecca Hedley