

# America Class Newsletter

Welcome back after the summer break- I hope everyone had a lovely holiday and that the children are ready for their move into Year 6.

## Curriculum

The children will mainly be taught as a Year 6 class this year but there may be occasions where we join in with other classes within Key Stage Two for some joint learning.

English- We will be looking at the book "Black Elk's Vision" which tells the story of a Native American from the perspective of a member of the Lakota tribe. We will read traditional tales and the themes and messages contained within them and use these as inspiration for our own stories.

Maths- Place value of numbers up to 10 million, the four operations and continued work on problem solving. There will be an increased emphasis on explaining and reasoning about ideas and justifying answers to questions and problems, not just reaching a correct answer.

Topic- Our class country is America, so we will be studying the human and physical geography of North America and finding out more about what life is like in different parts of the country. We will look at famous landmarks and use maps to help us to locate these.

Science- This half term we have a physics topic about light- how we see, how light travels and how our knowledge of light has changed over time. The children will also have the opportunity to investigate different theories through practical experiments.

Computing- Staying safe on line. We will revisit how to stay safe online and focus on how to recognise different signs and symbols which tell us if sites are safe and secure. We will also be discussing balancing screen time and the impact our online behaviour has on others.

RE- An introduction to the Buddhist religion- We will be looking at the foundations of the religion and then moving on to look at special times in the Buddhist calendar.

French- Around the town. Extending our knowledge of vocabulary based on places, position and direction.

PE- Swimming and free style gymnastics or dance fit at Willowburn on Fridays and Rugby with Cramlington Rockets on Tuesdays.

Music - Singing and performing based around the song "Happy" by Pharell Williams

Art and Design- Art and crafts inspired by the Native Americans. We will be working with different media and using what we have learnt in our Literacy lessons to help with our ideas.

### Homework

As we are putting a greater emphasis on reading, spelling and times tables this year there will be no regular weekly homework given out this half term. However, through the course of the year there will be projects linked to topic work if appropriate. As the children move through Year 6 the homework will increase in readiness for High School.

### Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's homework. Please read with your child at least three times a week. The emphasis in KS2 is to read and reread for fluency, expression and a deeper understanding of the text as well as broadening your child's vocabulary. In shared reading sessions we use VIPERS questions to encourage the children to explore the texts in depth. A VIPERS sheet has been stuck in the front of your child's reading record with examples of questions you can ask in order to improve your child's comprehension skills. Please sign reading records to show you have listened to your child read. Reading records need to be handed in on a Monday so they can be signed and updated.

### Spellings

The children will continue to have spellings to learn each week. Only practising these spellings once a week will not ensure a good consolidation, or help them to remember them in the long term so children are being asked to complete a spelling activity a minimum of three times a week. Spelling lists will be given out on a Tuesday and stuck into their Homework books on the back of a page. On the front of the page there is room to complete the spelling activities. In the front of this book there is a spelling activity sheet with ideas of different ways to learn spellings. Any spellings they get wrong in the test will be recorded underneath the list so they can continue to practise them.

### Times tables

It is important the children maintain a rapid recall of multiplication and division facts. Children who access Rock Star Times Tables regularly at home and school are

developing a much quicker and secure recall. Therefore, maths homework in KS2 is to use Rock Stars. All children have a login and password. This is now a focussed part of their homework and progress will be checked on a regular basis through the Rock Stars website.

### PE

As well as the correct kit for swimming on Fridays as indicated in the letter sent home, please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school. We will be outside where possible, so a warm kit and spare socks will be needed. Please send a spare bag with the kit for muddy shoes.

### Other information

This half term the portal will open to enable you to apply for High School places for next September. The High School will also be holding an open evening for you to attend with your child. Information about both of these will be sent out as soon as we have it. Please look out for information via Parent Mail.

The residential visit for Year 6 to Hawse End has been booked for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. Details to follow.

SATs week Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### Class Worship

Our class worship will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15 - we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Hedley