Year 6 Spring Term Newsletter

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all good health in what has now become another period of school closure.

As always, our Spring term curriculum will ensure that all children are given opportunities to develop their interests and skills, and that their learning is broad, balanced, engaging and fun! Lessons, even though online, will be taught through a longer-term topic, using texts to help broaden your child's vocabulary, deepen their understanding, and provide a context for their own work.

Below is some information about home learning platforms, expectations and our theme this term.

**Home Learning Platforms**

In accordance with the current Government guidelines, learning will now be moved to our online platforms. It is paramount that children have access to these, as all work will be allocated to these systems. Therefore, a work pack will be available for collection from the school office from today which includes: stationary, exercise books and individual logins for online platforms. Please take some time with your child in the coming days to familiarise yourselves with these platforms which include: E-Schools, Learning by Questions, Purple Mash and Fiction Express.

All of the aforementioned learning platforms will be used to engage your child with their home learning. E-Schools will be used as the main communication tool, where children can communicate directly with myself. E-schools will also be used to set work through the projects and homework pages. The daily expectation is that each day, children will be given a set amount of work to complete, with the answers being given for the morning lessons at 1pm. Children should mark their work, with an adult if possible, then either take a photo or a screenshot to upload to the system. The majority of work set on E-Schools will be exercise book-based tasks, ranging across all subjects.

<https://kingstreet.eschools.co.uk/login>

Daily reading and maths activities will also be set using Learning By Questions, an online platform which has been used since the beginning of term, both at home and in schools. Like always, the code to access the system will be found in the E-Schools platform on the project page daily, which your child should be familiar with.

<https://www.lbq.org/Login>

Purple Mash, another online learning platform, will be used daily in conjunction with E-Schools and Learning By Questions. The platform works in two ways; through the ‘work’ tab, where children will be directed to complete given tasks, and through the free choice tasks of the ‘homepage’. As mentioned previously, your child’s individual login can be found in the work pack available from the school’s office from today.

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/king-dl16>

Finally, Fiction Express is another learning platform available for all children. If you child would like to complete additional reading, please use Fiction Express; which offers a wide variety of easily accessible online reading materials.

<https://en.fictionexpress.com/>

**Daily Expectation**

As your child will be access the online learning platforms throughout the first Spring term, daily lessons will follow the same timetable and be uploaded before their scheduled start time.

9.00 – 9.15 – Morning Wake Up Shake Up Arithmetic (exercise based to be given through E-Schools)

9.20 – 9.45 - Arithmetic (answers to be uploaded at 10.00am)

9.45 - 10.00 – Children Mark Arithmetic (answers to be uploaded at 9.45am within the Home-Schooling January 2021 folder in the projects page)

10.00 – 10.20 – Screen Break

10.20 – 11.00 – Daily Maths lesson (this could either be through E-Schools, LBQ or Purple Mash)

11.00 – 11.20 – Screen Break

11.20 – 12.00 – English/Reading Activity (this could either be through E-Schools, LBQ or Purple Mash)

12.00 – 1.00 – Break

1.00 – 1.30 – Morning Marking (children to mark their work from the morning lessons and upload via the E-Schools platform. Answers can be found in the Home-Schooling January 2021 folder in the projects page from 12.30pm)

1.30 – 3.00 - Topic (this could either be History, Geography, PE, Art, Music etc and be set through E-Schools, LBQ or Purple Mash

The aforementioned is a daily school timetable and a recommendation of what and when to complete work set throughout the school day; I appreciate that during the last lockdown, huge numbers of parents were concerned about their child’s mental health and their ability to both work from home and support their child’s learning. I would reiterate now what Mrs Bromley said back then. You know your child best and first and foremost is the welfare of your child and family. If they are struggling, please contact myself – I am still here to help. Both I and the school will continue to provide support to your child as we would if they were in school, both academically and emotionally.

**Topic-based Learning**

Over the course of this Spring Term, Year 6 will be learning and asking questions all about Crime and Punishment. We are all very excited about this topic and the interesting lessons relating to how crime and punishment have evolved through the ages. Our texts this term will be: Holes (which can be found in the learning pack) and The Highwayman; both of which depict the alternative lives and perspectives of various characters throughout different time periods.

With all that in mind, and to create a firm foundation of historical and geographical contexts, children will become real life historians and geographers, delving deep into the past and researching how the methods of punishment have changed through the ages! From the martyrs of the Roman arenas, to the witch hunts throughout Europe and America and beyond, children will find out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods. They will also deepen their historical awareness and understanding of how our past is constructed through studying the famous highwayman Dick Turpin.

**Maths**

This term, our focus will be on: fractions, properties of shape, position and direction of shapes and calculating the area, perimeter and volume of shapes. All of these lessons will be part of our online learning platforms.

**Reading**

Reading remains a vital part of the curriculum, however, with the unfortunate events of school closures, reading at home will become paramount in the coming weeks. With that in mind, the plethora of learning platforms available for your child will assist with their home reading. A copy of Holes, our main text this half term, has been provided within the learning pack available from the school office. Children will be directed to read specific chapters via the E-Schools platform throughout this period of home schooling. Please also encourage your child to read their own books too, as it is something of great importance, not only in childhood but in life. If you child would like to complete additional reading, please use Fiction Express; which offers a wide variety of easily accessible online reading materials.

**Science**

Our first topic this term will be the human body and its circulation system. Children will: identify and name the main parts of the system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood; recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function; and describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans. Mrs Bott and I are extremely excited for this topic, as it (hopefully!) gives our pupils (and us!) an opportunity to dissect a real heart!

Our second topic this term will be living things and their habitats, in which the children will: describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals; and give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

**PE**

PE lessons will now be held each Monday and Friday afternoon (1.00pm-1.50pm) this term upon returning to schools after the closures. For now, PE lessons will be directed through our online learning platforms. When children return, PE kits must be present from Monday each week and will be sent home for cleaning each Friday. As PE lessons will be often outdoors, due to guidelines relating to shared spaces, **please ensure your child has warm, weather-appropriate PE kit**. Absences from PE must be supported with a parental letter or phone call, detailing reasons for said absence, medical or otherwise.

**Secondary School Places**

Last term was the opening of applications for secondary school places within the community and surrounding areas.

Offers will be made on the 1st March 2021, with a deadline for parents of the 15th March 2021 to accept or decline the offer. Due to current circumstances, we are unable to provide further information relating to secondary school transition, but will update you when further updates present themselves.

Regards,

Mr S.Colling

Year 6 Teacher