

Water Birds (Years 5 and 6)

Spring Term 2 2019



As Year 6 SATs are fast approaching, we will be having a slightly different approach to teaching this term. In English, Mrs Kotulecki and Mr Cook will be taking every opportunity to consolidate Year 6's understanding of language used in the tests and expand their written skills. While in Year 5, Miss Ellis and Mrs Cooley will be supporting Year 5 as they develop new written skills. In maths, Year 6 will spend time in every lesson looking at how to approach reasoning problems.

It's Electric

From the flick of a switch, electricity powers our homes and enhances every element of everyday life. This topic will help the children not only understand how electricity is created but more importantly how it is shared and controlled. The children will learn how to vary the way components function in a circuit and represent these as a simple circuit in a diagram.

Maths and Literacy Foci:

Literacy: We will begin the term continuing our journey with Willie Beech, in Goodnight Mr Tom, as he returns home to visit his mother.

Later in the term, we will turn our attention to poetry. Considering the mystery of Flannan Isle by Wilfred Gibson. This will give children the opportunity to research the role of lighthouses throughout history, before writing a non-chronological report. They will also be writing in role as one of the rescue team who went to visit Flannan Isle in 1900.

There will continue to be a **greater focus** on reading this term. A dedicated reading lesson will be taught for 30 minutes every day and these will have a particular focus on comprehension skills - **making connections** and **comparisons** and **evaluating the writer's choice of vocabulary**. Please ask your child about these skills as the term progresses.

In addition to this whole class approach.

Year 5 will be developing their comprehension skills reading either **Stig of the Dump** or **The Borrowers**.

Year 6 will continue to be split into small reading groups and work with an adult to deepen their understanding of texts.

Independent reading is a crucial skill. All children have been sent home with a **reading challenge card**. At the end of every book completed we would ask you to support your child in writing a brief book review. This will be used to encourage others in the class to read different texts and allow your child to gain one of their reading challenge stars.

Maths: Through the course of this half term, we will be recapping and building on our knowledge and understanding about number and place value (including negative and decimal values) along with calculations and their application in problems with money and measure. We will also be using our reasoning skills to improve our investigative approaches to fractions, decimals and percentages, ratio and proportion.

Year 6 will be revising their knowledge of number facts, shape and measure.

Curriculum Foci

Science: Science will be our key focus this term as we learn about **Electricity**. We will be considering and using our knowledge of simple circuits to build our own lighthouses.

Geography: We will be using maps and atlases to consider where to site a power station.

Computing: We will be designing a set of instructions ready to convert into Scratch algorithms.

Art: We will be looking at the Life of Jesus through the eyes of an artist and creating our own self portraits.

RE: As this term leads up to the Christian celebration of Easter we will be considering the importance of Lent and why the resurrection is so important to Christians.

PSHE: We will be considering how our actions affect others in the local and global community. We will be looking for opportunities to support our local environment.

Music: All classes will be having a 40 minute Samba drumming lesson.

PE: This term the children will be taking part in the Golden Mile, Dodgeball and gymnastics. Please can we remind families that PE kits need to come into school on a Monday and can be taken home on a Friday. PE kit should include a round necked gold or white T-shirt, black shorts, black / green tracksuit bottoms, trainers and spare socks. It is really important that all children change for PE, hair needs to be tied back and all jewellery / watches removed.

Important dates for your diary:

Puffin classes visit to St. Mary's church - Thursday 14th March 2019 .

Tuesday 19th March (9am & 5pm) - SATs Meeting for all Year 6 Parents

Thursday 28th March 2019 - Year 5 and 6 Samba Drumming Concert (provisional date)

Thursday 4th April - KS2 Easter Service at St. Mary's church (pm)

Home Learning Tasks

Maths and Literacy: This will be set weekly.

Homework will be handed out on a Thursday and returned to school the following Tuesday.

Reading: All children will be expected to read five times per week and record those pages read in their planner.

Spelling: Will be set weekly - children will be given an activity to complete based on the weekly spellings.

We would ask that parents and guardians sign their child's planner once a week ready for it to be handed in on a Friday.