

This term is a very busy one for consolidating and broadening knowledge.

In English we will continue to look at grammar in increasing depth. When we have finished looking at dependent clauses acting as adverbs, adjectives and noun clauses we will move on to look at higher level punctuation such as semi-colons, dashes and hyphens. In application, this will enable children to make more informed decisions about the structure of their writing depending on its purpose or the effects being created.

We have begun looking at a new class book called 'Reckless' by Cornelia Funke. This requires thinking at a deeper level to interpret the plot and to analyse the way it is composed. In doing so, the class should have access to an inspiring source of material that can really help to fuel their own writing as well as study the craft of a highly skilled author.

At the tail end of last year we began studying a particular style of problem solving called bar-modelling. We will spend much of this first half term looking at fractions and in particular, trying to solve a variety of problems in a variety of different ways. I will continue to have high expectations of the manner in which problems are set out and solved with the emphasis being on process and evidence rather than just the right answer.

Later on, we will spend some time looking at and working through old SATs papers for two reasons: first, it will build confidence in exam technique and second, the questions are excellent examples of well written problems which really help to apply and broaden skills regardless of any pending tests.

Tables remain key to success in maths calculations. I will continue to make the assumption that tables recall is an integral part of weekly homework and will therefore focus on their application to increasingly challenging questions.

Science moves into space in the first half term. Although we will be developing a knowledge and interest of the wider solar system the main focus will be on the interaction between the Sun, Earth and

Moon. We follow this with a look at the nature of light and its observed behaviour, forming shadows for example.

History gives way to geography this term as we start to look at how volcanoes and earthquakes are formed. This rides on the back of the work we are doing in science where the formation of planets helps to form an understanding of the different layers of the Earth.

In computing this term we will be creating our own E-books aimed at a younger audience using just the iPads. We will be using the brushes app to explore how images created and / or altered for use within a book and we will be planning our own books using the 'Popplet' app. Finally we will use 'Book Creator' to combine our images with an original text.

PE will develop skills in athletics and agility before moving back towards invasion games in which we will look longingly towards the sky and pray for fine weather that will allow us to learn the tactics of several outdoor sports. Please ensure that PE kits are in school for Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the term.

In art we will take a close look at water colours. By studying Japanese styles we will improve our understanding of tone and texture and experiment with different compositions. Through this we will create some really atmospheric work which will be well worth seeing.

Each child now has a home / school diary to keep track of different events in school. Please feel free to use this if you would like to make notes or observations that you think would be useful for me to see.

We have focused on the multiplication tables as they form the basis for many mathematical processes and build a great sense of self-achievement. If your child still does not have a **solid and rapid** recall of their tables, it is crucial that you use any opportunity to help them improve. Little and often is so much more effective than one big hit once in a while. With the depth and weight of the Year 6 curriculum we just cannot find the time to do non-stop tables. If you would like any help devising ways to help at home please feel free to contact me any time and I'll try to help any way I can.