

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 will also pick up reading skills in much more detail, learning to categorise questions (literal, inferential and evaluative) and develop skimming and scanning techniques, while learning to analyse questions in more detail before searching for answers. This in turn will start to develop the composition work in new ways which will become more narrative based, using inference as a mechanism to suggest meaning, perhaps through the action or response of a character rather than the reader being explicitly told.

We will shortly begin 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.

In Maths, we will spend much of this first half-term looking at fractions and in particular, multiplying and dividing them by both whole numbers and other fractions.

We will also continue 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.

Both of these subjects will be taught through a broader theme of a Martian base in which we will propose to establish a new colony, creating opportunities for map work, planning, comparison of volcanoes and different planets and oh so much maths...

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.

We have focused on the multiplication tables as they form the basis for many mathematical processes and build a great sense of self-achievement. Much of the Year 6 curriculum depends on a **solid and rapid** recall of their tables. With the depth and weight of the Year 6 curriculum we just cannot find the time to do non-stop tables so anything you can do at home to help can be crucial. Little and often is so much more effective than one big hit once in a while. 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.