



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our learning*



## Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** 6
- **Term:** 1

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mr D Evans
- Mrs L Miller
- Miss C Kiernan
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first curriculum overview of the new school year. The purpose of the overview is to let you know what the children will be learning this term and set out some of the ways in which you can support them at home.

New learning is fragile and needs time to embed so that it is not lost. It is important that children receive the right kind of support in school and at home. This is why we set homework tasks with the aim of supporting and extending your child's new learning. Expectations regarding homework are therefore also shared in the overview along with suggestions for supporting children at home.

It is very important that all homework is at least attempted at home. If you have a child who does not understand something set for homework, then the homework has done its job. Please ask your child to do as much as he/she can honestly manage, offer reassurance and notify the relevant teacher the next day who will then follow it up with all the help and encouragement that that your child requires. Please do not force your child to carry on if he/she really does not understand, as this can be negative.

We know that methods of teaching and learning change over the years and so we are **always** happy to explain them to you if you have a question or are not sure about something. We are also happy to arrange parent/carer workshops or even support you on a one-to-one basis if you would find this helpful. Please speak to your child's teacher in confidence if you would like some support.

During our first term the children start a new theme called 'The Way We Were'. If you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experiences to share; or useful contacts, please speak to your child's teacher. All offers of help are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## Homework

Children will be given homework on a Friday and this will be expected back in by the following Thursday. The homework will be:

- 'MyMaths' online homework for maths – children will receive personal login details shortly
- 'Bug Club' for reading homework
- spellings
- cross-curricular theme-related homework at various other times

There is a daily Homework Club at lunchtime from 12.30pm in the Year 6 classroom which is run by Miss Hardman supported by some of the older children. At the club pupils can ask for support from her or her team of helpers. Pupils attending the club also have access to the library, computers and other technology as well as resources not necessarily available at home. *Every child is welcome to attend.*

## RE

Please see the attached 'Come and See' letter for more information about the RE themes this term.



## English: Basic Skills – Reading, Phonics, Spelling and Handwriting

### **Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar & Handwriting**

All children will benefit from having regular handwriting and spelling practise and regular grammar and punctuation sessions focused on meeting their *individual* needs.

#### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *supporting them to learn their weekly spellings*
- *talking about their targets for writing (please refer to the interim reports)*

### **Book Study**

This term the children will be undertaking a book study. This involves reading a book of high quality and interest. The children will read together in groups then undertake comprehension style activities on the text which they have read. In Year 6 the children will be studying Louis Sachar's "Holes".

#### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *reading your child's reading books with them for a few minutes every day (as well as other books) together*
- *encouraging your child to read a wider range of more challenging books in order to widen their experience*
- *talking about their targets for reading (as shared on their record sheet from parents evening)*

## Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills

This term we will be focusing on preparing the children mathematically for transition to secondary education as we focus on:

- place-value and the number system
- mental and written methods of calculation
- problem-solving and applying skills in different contexts

#### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *asking them to calculate simple problems around the home e.g. "I have £5 and I need to buy items costing £2.45, £1.24 and £0.29, can you calculate how much change I will have left from the £5?"*
- *practising multiplication tables each night – this is extremely important!*

## Theme: The Way We Were

Our wider curriculum focus this term will be developed through various themes from the class novel 'Holes'. This will enable us to explore the whole-school theme and encourage deep cross-curricular learning, while also focusing on the literacy and comprehension skills that are so important to get right this year. In addition to this, we will be having an 'International Week' during the week of the 7<sup>th</sup> September, with our class focus being Europe.

## English: Creative Writing within the Theme

During this theme the children will be having lots of freedom to choose what they would like to write about and what form/genre this will be in.

#### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *talking about the writing they have been doing at school and really valuing and praising any writing that children do at home*
- *looking at various types of writing such as: adverts on TV, leaflets and brochures, reports and stories*

## Science within the Theme

We will be learning about living things and their habitats. Throughout the year, children will also be taught to use particular scientific methods, processes and skills such as planning scientific enquiries, taking measurements and making observations, and reporting findings and conclusions.

#### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *finding out more about how animals and plants are adapted to different environments*



## Geography within the Theme

We will investigate the European Union, including using maps to name and locate countries. We will also be exploring the human and physical geography of the UK and of North America, through our focus on the class novel, 'Holes'.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *looking at different kinds of maps*
- *discussing and finding out where different countries are in the world*

## Music

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher and in Term 1 your child will be exploring singing by:-

- ✓ understanding harmony
- ✓ appreciating a range of different music styles
- ✓ performing songs in different styles

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *listening to music and discussing the lyrics; in order to consider whether they reflect the time and place where they were composed; a mood, attitude or whether they tell a story or are indeed memorable*
- *encouraging children to make up their own songs including lyrics, perhaps in the style of songs they already know*

## Computing

Your child will be learning about mobile apps this term and will plan the creation of their own smartphone or tablet app.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *talking about the different kinds of apps that you and your family find useful*
- *discussing ideas for new, interesting and useful apps*

## PE

This term the children will be developing fundamental skills and attitudes through 'Real PE', and focusing on athletics and 'Ultimate Frisbee'.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *asking them about their lessons and what they have learned*
- *practising the skills learned in school*