



Autumn 2021 Class Newsletter South Africa

Class Teacher: Miss Turner

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday and you are looking forward to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome the children into South Africa Class this week. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

Themes for the term - 'The World at War' and 'Frozen Kingdom.'

From this academic year, we will be covering two topics each term. During the first half of term, we will be learning about World War 2. It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for this theme and superb holiday homework. After half term, we will be investigating characteristics and features of Polar Regions, and exploring the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

English:

Week beginning	Theme
06.09.21	Letters from the Lighthouse: Text familiarisation, prediction and inference
13.09.21-27.09.21	Diary Entries - World War 2
04.10.21-18.10.21	Historical Stories Narrative - Descriptive writing based on the trenches
25.10.21	Half term
01.11.21-15.11.21	Non-Chronological Report - Polar Animals
22.11.21	Poetry: Haiku
29.11.21-13.12.21	Discussion Texts: Balanced Arguments

Maths:

Week beginning	Theme
06.09.21-13.09.21	Number and Place Value
20.09.21-27.09.21	Operations: Addition and Subtraction
04.10.21-11.10.21	Operations: Multiplication and Division
18.10.21	Fractions
25.10.21	Half Term
01.11.21-29.11.21	Fractions
06.12.21-13.12.21	Geometry: Position and Direction

Mental Maths, Arithmetic and problem-solving activities will all be timetabled regularly.

Science: We will study two main themes this term: Electricity and Light. The children will learn about famous scientists and their significant historical discoveries, with regular opportunities for practical work to explore concepts including circuit function, reflection, refraction and the colour spectrum.

Relationship and Health Education:

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory and our focus is Sex and Relationship Education: Healthy Relationships & How a Baby is Made.

Please note: A Zoom information meeting for parents has been arranged for Tuesday 5th October at 3:30pm to introduce what will be covered in this unit before the teaching and learning begins.

Computing: Building on the Year 5 curriculum, this term we will cover the following units:

- Coding
- E-Safety

Topic: We will begin with exploring a timeline of the events that led up to the start of World War 2. The children will use primary and secondary sources to develop their knowledge of D-Day. We will also explore war propaganda, the role of women in WW2 and how warfare has changed over time.

RE: The children will learn about Christianity through three units:

- Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?
- What does it mean if God is holy and loving?
- World Religions: Islam

Art: Using the famous war artist Paul Nash for inspiration, the children will produce a variety of war-themed art work using a range of media, including pencil, watercolour and acrylic.

Music: We will be following the Charanga Scheme of Work and the children will be learning how to play the ukulele.

D&T: Linking in with our Science topics, the children will design and make a functioning lighthouse!

Swimming: Swimming lessons will take place on Wednesdays and will be taught by Mrs Treadwell. The children will swim in groups (maximum of 10 per group). Please note that earrings must be removed for swimming lessons and children with long hair will require a swimming hat. Other useful items include deodorant (no sprays please) and a hairbrush. Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that sun cream or hair gel are not applied before swimming. It would also be helpful if the children could have sun hats and raincoats to be worn at the poolside if needed.

PE: The children will need to bring their PE kits into school each week. Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Burbidge on Thursdays, who will be delivering Tag Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning. They will remain in school all week and will then come home to be washed on a Friday. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have PE shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits. Dance lessons will be taught in the second half of term when the swimming pool closes for winter.

Important dates:

- Mrs Edwards (Head teacher at The Weald) to visit - Tuesday 14th September
- Non-school uniform for Harvest Fayre - Friday 17th September
- Evacuee Day - Friday 8th October - costume will be required
- Individual School Photographs - Tuesday 28th September
- Meet the Teacher Zoom Meeting - Wednesday 29th September 3:30pm
- Year 6 SRE Information Meeting for Parents (Zoom) - Tuesday 5th October 3.30pm
- Half term - Monday 25th - Friday 29th October
- INSET Day - Monday 1st November
- Parents' Evenings - Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th November 3:30-6:00pm (via School Cloud)
- End of term - Friday 17th December

Homework:

- **Reading logs:** Please ensure your child reads to you or independently and that this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading and dialogue between home and school. My expectation is three entries per week. Reading logs will be collected in on a **Monday**. In line with current guidance, they will be marked on a Wednesday and returned to the children on a Thursday. Books borrowed from school should be returned to the boxes in the library, where they will be stored for 48 hours before being put out for others to borrow.
- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. Word lists will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week and spelling books will remain in school.
- **Homework:** Homework grids will be uploaded to Google Classroom half termly and will be linked to the theme we are learning about in school. All homework should be submitted electronically via Google Classroom. The children can either complete their work in their Home School Notebooks and upload a photograph or submit an electronic document. (Home School Notebooks do not need to be returned to school each week). We will look at homework each week and feedback will be provided. There may also be opportunities to share homework with the class to share the learning which has been taking place at home and celebrate outstanding work.
- **TT Rockstars and My Maths:**
We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. This has shown a significant impact on the children's fluency, speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication. Please do encourage your children to practise their times tables at home on a weekly basis - daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements. We will also continue to use My Maths, an interactive online program to support Maths learning, on a regular basis. This provides the children with the opportunity to link homework activities to their class based learning and will enable them to consolidate the skills that have been taught.
- **Accelerated Reader/MyOn:** Regular reading assessments will provide us with a reading age for each child and this will indicate an appropriate colour band of books at the correct level. All fiction books borrowed from the school library contain a bar code and this should be used to access a quiz once a book has been completed to assess the children's reading comprehension.

Log in details:

A reminder of the children's log in details for all of our online learning platforms - Google Classroom, Accelerated Reader, TT Rockstars, MyMaths and Purple Mash - will be sent out this week.

General points to note:

Please ensure that the children adhere to our school uniform policy at all times, including appropriate footwear (no trainers please). Boys should wear dark (black or grey) socks and girls should have dark blue or navy hair bands. Large, colourful hair accessories should not be worn to school.

If your child will be walking home independently this year, please could we ask that you provide us with your written consent for this arrangement to both the class email address and the school office.

Please remember that we are a **nut free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Miss H Turner

South Africa Class Teacher

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As part of our topic we sometimes show clips and films that are 12A certified.

Please return the slip to your class teacher if you **DO NOT** consent to your child watching such clips.

Many thanks,
Year Six Team

Name ----- Signed -----