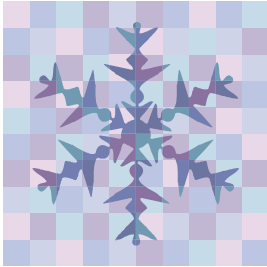


Curriculum News

Volume 6, Issue 1

Tuesday, 12
January 2010



Family Consultations 2010

Welcome back. We hope you all had an enjoyable break and took advantage of the enforced snow closures. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported the Christmas Fayre, especially those who took part in Yo Ho Ho a Pirate Christmas. Thanks also for your support of our singers at the Late Night Shopping event, it was a great turn out.

On Tuesday 19th January there will be a day closure, to allow us to hold our annual Family Consultations. The consultations run throughout the day and we aim to offer each family a session of up to fifteen minutes, where parents and children can sit down with their class teacher and discuss progress, celebrate achievements and identify learning targets. For families in years 4,5 and 6, progress made on the targets set at the end of the summer term should also be discussed. At the end of each consultation a set of learning targets should be agreed and within ten days of the meeting families will receive a written copy of the agreed targets. Family Consultations are an important event in the school calendar and we hope that all families will be able to find the time to take part. I would like to emphasise that these are Family Consultations and we do expect children to attend with their mums and dads, so that they can share in the celebration of their achievements and also understand the targets that they need to work on, with the support of both parents and their teacher.

To assist families who may have several children we will be running a crèche so that the consultation can focus on the individual pupil. Should a family wish to have a brief discussion with the class teacher following discussions with the child present, please let the teacher know at the beginning so that the teacher does not overrun the allocated time.

Once again we will be asking all families to complete an online questionnaire at this year's Family Consultations. The questionnaire should take no more than ten minutes to fill in. Details will be given out during the consultations and a member of staff will be available to help families log onto the questionnaire. We do hope that as many families as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to give us feedback.

AB

LOWER JUNIORS



2010 is off to a swimming start! In accordance with the Physical Education Guidelines, the Spring Term is the term in which Year 4 children brave the elements each Thursday at the Taro Centre (CM and PG first half term, BG and KR the second half term). This is a thoroughly enjoyable experience and hopefully, by the end of term, all Year 4 pupils will have gained a Hampshire Swimming Award. We would be very grateful if you could ensure that your child's swimming kit is clearly labelled, a tracksuit or warm sweater would also be useful, especially on cold mornings.

Whilst the Year 4 pupils are swimming, Year 3 children will be following their planned PE, Literacy and Numeracy programmes. In PE they will focus on developing their games and dance skills (both country and Tudor dance).

Literacy and Numeracy activities are scheduled daily and where possible will be linked to topic work. In the first term we will be looking at explanatory texts related to the Tudor time period and investigating the use of suffixes and adjectives. We will focus on different genres of writing in the second term, particularly science fiction. We will also be developing our comprehension skills. All Literacy sessions will include individual and group reading and handwriting activities. Spelling groups will continue on Fridays and children should be bringing home new spelling lists on this day.



Numeracy activities are structured to develop oral and mental skills. The planned work will help develop the rapid recall of number bonds, multiplication and division facts. Playing any number games at home with your child, or giving them fun mental arithmetic tasks on a regular basis, will help them to build up their confidence and the speed of their mental calculations. During the term we will also be focusing on money in real life situations, shape and space, data handling and fractions.



Our History topic for this term is the Tudors – comparing the lifestyles of the rich and poor Tudors. After our visit to Hampton Court Palace on the 5th February, the pupils will be developing their enquiry skills and investigating how people lived in Tudor times, identifying the features of Tudor buildings and the reasons why there is little evidence about poor Tudor homes. We will be exploring the roles and responsibilities of a Tudor King, by discussing the lifestyle of Henry VIII.



The Technology unit builds on children's experience of joining and combining reclaimed materials. Pupils will be using joints and learning about wheel axles to create a wheeled vehicle. We will start this unit after half-term, so if you are able to save any boxes, plastic bottle tops or objects you feel maybe useful for making vehicles, it would be helpful.

In Science we are looking at materials and using their properties to help separate mixtures.

ICT will be used to support all subject areas and research programmes to enhance the Tudor unit of work. The children will have the opportunity to

develop their word processing skills, combining text and graphics. Pupils will also have the opportunity to use the Digital Blue cameras to capture images and create presentations.

Our music is also linked to the Tudor time period. We shall be comparing and contrasting examples of music from Tudor times and the different instruments that were used. Our work will culminate in the composition of a fanfare for Henry VIII. Year 4 children are continuing with the Hampshire Music Service project and will be learning the violin.

Homework will continue to be set three times a week for Year 4 children and will follow the existing format of Education City activities on Monday and Wednesday and a topic based activity on Friday. Year 3 children will have homework this term, if parents have requested it. If at any time the homework task or ongoing tables, reading and spelling becomes too much, please let your child's teacher know.

If you feel you have any time to spare, or you would like to be involved in any of the projects this term, we would be most grateful. Thank you for your continued support.

UPPER JUNIORS

The Spring Term in the Upper School is always a very busy one and there is much exciting work to be done within a relatively short period.

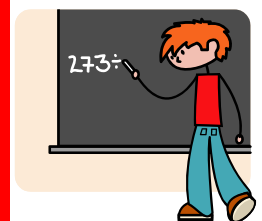
The children will have a daily 'literacy hour.' We begin the term with some work on discussion texts. The classes will be studying how arguments are constructed in order to be effective and learning how to write their own points of view logically and persuasively. Poetry, in a range of forms, will also be covered in the first half of the term and we will be focusing on humorous verse. The range of texts to be utilised also includes formal writings, such as notices and public information documents. After half term we will be reading some long established stories and novels from a variety of genres. The children will study aspects of narrative structure and the key features of different types of literary text. Grammar and punctuation will begin with some revision of previous work and move into a study of conditionals, active and passive verbs, complex sentences and the features of formal official language.

Alongside the phonics, spelling and vocabulary covered within the context of the Literacy Hour, we continue to run spelling groups on a weekly basis. It is most important that the children learn their words regularly for the Friday Test and your help with this is much appreciated.

Regular reading at home is most beneficial. Please encourage your child to read a range of authors and text types.

We would also like you to comment upon completed written tasks and suggest improvements whenever necessary. Pupils will regularly bring their compositions home so that they can be shared. This has been found to have a motivating affect on their work.

Our Mathematics programme is divided into five 'Blocks', which are revisited each term. Once again the children have a daily hour of this subject begin-



ning with some mental work. It is important that pupils develop their mental agility, including quick recall of tables. Your support and encouragement with the practising of these skills would be most beneficial. The topics covered include 3D shape, Co-ordinates, Multiplication and Division, Addition & Subtraction of Decimals, Negative Numbers, Time, Symmetry, Angles, Ratio and Proportion, Probability, Area and Perimeter, Mass, Volume and Capacity. Calculator skills are taught so that pupils can make effective use of this valuable piece of equipment.

Science will focus on Light and Sound and the Earth and Beyond. The children will be learning about reflection, how we see and how shadows are formed, before moving on to consider how different sounds are produced and how sound can pass through different materials. Under the heading 'The Earth and Beyond' the children will learn about periodic changes such as day and night, the months and the seasons.

The work in I.C.T will begin with a unit on spreadsheets. Using Excel the children enter data and formulae into cells, modify the data, make predictions of changes and check results. They create and use spreadsheets to calculate the cost of materials for a party and to produce tables of results and graphs. After half term control technology will be introduced. Pupils learn how to control simple devices, such as buzzers, small motors and lights through simulations. Please note we are very happy for the children to use their own computers for homework assignments, unless of course it is a handwriting exercise!

In R.E we will cover a unit of work about Prophets. The children will explore the qualities of prophets as leaders and their importance to the religion in which they feature. They will compare the roles of the same prophet in different religions, learn about the prophet Mohammed and understand the relative chronology of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. As Easter approaches we explore the meaning and significance of this time for Christians. Going for Goals, Risks and Pressures, Good to be Me and Community are the main units of work in P.S.H.E and Citizenship.

Our European Topic this term is geographically based. We will be studying the main features and physical characteristics of Europe and comparing the area with other continents in the world. The children will consider climate variation, learn about the major rivers in Europe and where most people live. They will also learn about the European Union. Alongside these areas of study we will be teaching mapping skills. The children visit The Selborne Study Centre during the week beginning 1st February in order to complete fieldwork relating to rivers and settlements.

Netball, Basketball and Hockey will be taught during games lessons. We try to use the outside facilities as much as possible so please ensure that your child has some trainers or plimsolls in school all week. A tracksuit is also useful in cold weather. Gymnastic activities will focus on Spinning and Turning and we will be learning a dance entitled 'Volcanoes'.

The work of some European masters will be studied in Art and the children will use ideas from these artists in their own work. They will experiment with different types of paints and brushstrokes and make evaluations of their own and other artists' work.

Exploring Sounds and Tempo and Dynamics are the units of work for Music. The children will be listening, responding, performing and composing.

During French lessons we will be learning vocabulary and phrases associated with clothing in preparation for the fashion show, which takes place in March.

Finally, as we have less than three full weeks before SATs once the Summer Term begins, we plan to start the year 6 revision programme during the week beginning Monday 15th March. The children involved will be given more homework during this period. Please feel free to assist them in any way that you can.