

Curriculum News

Volume 6, Issue 1

Monday, 02
January 2012

Welcome Back

Welcome back, I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that your New Year has got off to a good start.

This term we are holding our annual Family Consultations on Tuesday 17th January. Consultations are held **during the day** and we aim to offer each family a session of up to fifteen minutes, during which parents and children sit down with their class teacher and celebrate achievements, discuss progress, and identify learning targets. For year 3 families progress made since the autumn term transition meetings will be discussed, 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 the consultation the next 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 a very important event in the school calendar and we hope that all families will be able to find the time to take part.

Each year we ask parents to complete an online questionnaire, modelled on the Ofsted parent questionnaire, during the Family Consultations. The online questionnaire may be completed on the day of the consultations using workstations on the school computer network. The questionnaire takes between five and ten minutes to complete and the resulting information is shared with staff and governors. Areas identified for development, through the questionnaire, are then written into the school's development plan. I hope that you will find time to complete a questionnaire during the Family Consultation. Once again members of staff will be available to help you log on to the network and get started on the questionnaire.

Details of the booking arrangements for this year's Family Consultations will be sent out in the next fortnight.

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LOWER JUNIORS



2012 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 (BG and LC first half term, PG 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). With the focus being on the forthcoming Olympics, pupils will be designing and making their own mascots out of clay, visiting the Boat Project in Emsworth during February and looking at the Olympic values and how we exhibit these in our lives.

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 3rd 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 links closely to science and draws on the pupils observation and experiences from their trip to the Boat Project. We shall be looking at the constructions and the shapes of boats, making sails, testing these and having races! In Science we are looking at materials and using their properties to help separate mixtures in the context of the Olympics.



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. .

Our music is also linked the 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 chil-

Children are continuing with the Hampshire Music Service project and will be learning how to play the various instruments that create a samba band.

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 study how arguments are constructed in order to be effective and learn 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 read some long established stories and novels from a variety of genres. The children study aspects of narrative structure and the key features of different types of literary text. Grammar and punctuation begins with some revision of previous work and moves into a study of conditionals, active and passive verbs, complex sentences and the features of formal official language.

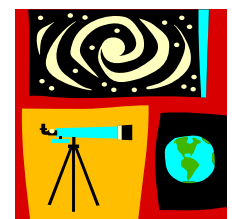
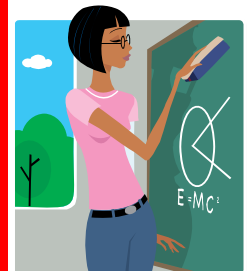
Alongside the phonics, spelling and vocabulary, covered within the context of the Literacy Hour, we continue to run spelling groups on a weekly basis. It is most important that the children learn their words regularly for the 'Friday Test' and your help with this is much appreciated.

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 effect upon their work.

Our Mathematics programme is divided into 'blocks', which are revisited each term. Once again the children have a daily hour of this subject beginning 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 is vital. The topics covered include 2D and 3D shape, Negative Numbers, Symmetry, Angles, Area and Perimeter, Time, Probability, Fractions and Percentages, Ratio and Proportion, Mass, Volume and Capacity and Problem Solving. 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 learn 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 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 Crystal Rainforest the children practise entering data into cells before learning how to use formulae, modify the data, make predictions of changes and check results. They create and use spreadsheets to calculate the cost of a trip to the Olympics and to produce tables of results and graphs.

In R.E we cover a unit of work about Prophets. The children explore the qualities of prophets as leaders and their importance to the religion in which they feature. They compare the roles of the same prophet in different religions, learn about the prophet Muhammed 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, The World of Work, Good to be Me and Community are the main units of work in P.S.H.E and Citizenship.

In Design Technology we will be exploring a range of construction challenges focussed on a rocket theme.

Our Topic this term is geographically based and features Oceania. We will be studying the main features and physical characteristics of the region and comparing it with other continents in the world. The children consider climate variation, learn about the major rivers in Australia and investigate patterns of settlement. They also learn about indigenous wildlife, the impact of immigration on Australian society and Australia's Olympic successes. Alongside these areas of study we will be teaching mapping skills. The children visit The Selborne Study Centre this term in order to complete fieldwork relating to rivers and settlements.

New Age Games and Multiskills 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 track-suit is also useful in cold weather. Gymnastic activities will focus on Synchronisation and Canon and we will be learning a dance entitled 'Flight from Danger'.

Aboriginal artwork and artists will be studied before the children use these ideas in their own sketches. They will plan and create an Aboriginal style wall-hanging using sewing, gluing and pleating. This will then be evaluated and suggestions for improvement made. Finally pupils write the story represented in their design.

Journey into Space and Pitch are the units of work for Music. The children will be listening, responding, performing and composing.

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

Finally, we plan to start the year 6 revision programme during the week beginning Monday 19th March. The children involved are given more homework during this period. Please feel free to assist them in any way that you can.

