**Year 6 Spring Term 2019 Information**

**Literacy**

Literacy sessions will take place every day. Writing, including sentence construction and grammar, will be taught through a variety of teaching sequences, using three main texts – The Princess’ Blankets, A Drove of Bullocks and Ice Trap. There will be cross curricular links with our Cornerstones topics (Frozen Kingdom) and (Darwin’s Delights). Handwriting, SPAG and reading comprehension will be further developed within discrete lessons.

**Maths**

Maths sessions will take place every day. These will be taught using the Power Maths scheme where pupils will be encouraged to gain a deeper understanding of the following areas: Fractions, decimals and percentages, coordinates, algebra, area and perimeter, ratio and proportion and measures.

In addition, children will continue to consolidate their arithmetic skills and formal written calculation methods, applying these skills to develop their mathematical reasoning. They will continue to develop these skills in discrete Rapid Arithmetic sessions. The children will continue to develop their Multiplication Facts fluency using Times Table Rock Stars.

**Cornerstones**

We are just about to complete Blood Heart. Please join us for our ‘Celebration’ event on Wednesday 9th January from 1:30pm in the school hall. Children are able to come to school in their sports clothes all day – parents may wish to come in sports clothes too and join in with our exercise activities. From Monday 14th January, we will begin our new topic **Frozen Kingdom**: Welcome to the planet’s coldest lands, which are incredibly beautiful, yet often deadly. Using globes and maps, we’ll identify the polar-regions, comparing the Arctic and Antarctic. We’ll also think about how we can protect the polar environment and learn about the animals. Then, we’ll investigate the tragic story of the RMS Titanic, and find out about the people on board. When we’re more familiar with the polar-regions, we’ll write exciting stories, poems and diary entries from the perspective of brave explorers. After half-term, we’ll move on to **Darwin’s Delights**: Ship ahoy! We’re off on an exciting journey with Charles Darwin and his crew on the HMS Beagle. We’re going to investigate a range of animal specimens, describing the characteristics of the creatures, and labelling their body parts. We’ll use a range of sources to investigate adaptation, natural selection, variation and inheritance. After examining letters and journal entries written by Darwin, we’ll write our own examples. We’ll collect natural items and discover what plants live around our school. We’ll retrace Darwin’s steps using maps and create sketchbooks to record the plants, flowers and trees we encounter. Using maps and globes, we’ll plan an expedition. What will the weather be like and what physical and man-made features might we encounter? At the end of the project, we’ll think about why the Galapagos Islands developed such diverse animal life, and why they might be under threat.

Information about each topic will be sent home at the start of the topic and will include home-learning activities. We will let you know dates for ‘Celebration’ events as soon as possible.

**Key reminders**

**P.E.**

Children will require a PE kit (shorts, t-shirt, trainers) in school all week, especially on their timetabled PE days of Tuesday and Wednesday. They are also allowed to wear track suit bottoms and top when the weather is colder. Please remember to name uniform just in case it is mislaid by the children – use a permanent pen so that the names are not washed clean away.

**Medication Forms**

If your child requires any medicine during school times, a medical form must be completed. All medicines should be prescribed by a doctor. Please collect a form from the office.

**Homework**

Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned to school, by the following Thursday. We run a Homework Club, on Monday for Y6, during lunchtime. Each week, children will be given targeted spellings; in addition, the children will be given a Literacy task (Reading Comprehension or SPAG) or a Mathematical task. The HWK will be marked during the day on Fridays. As always, we expect the children to read for about 20 minutes per day and learn Multiplication Facts using Times Table Rock Stars.

**Start and End of day**

Please remember we start the day at 8:50am. Children should not be on the school grounds until 8.45am, unless at breakfast club. Children should wait quietly outside the Upper Junior cloakroom door until it is opened. Children should make their way into class and make a start on any morning work which has been set.

The day ends at 3:15pm. Children should leave the school through the Upper Junior cloakroom mains doors ONLY, unless at After School Club or other activities being organised by teachers or sports coaches. Both Year 6 teachers will walk to the front playground at the end of the day and will happily be available to anyone who needs to speak to us.

**Key dates for the spring term**

**Monday 7th January:** Maths Reasoning Club begins 3:15pm – 4pm

**Wednesday 9th January**: Blood Heart Celebration event in the school hall. Parents are invited from 1:30pm

**Monday 28th January – Thursday 31st January**: Year 6 Mock SATs – please note the timetable below which mirrors the actual SATs week in May. We want the children to experience what it will be like to sit official tests in the school hall and then share their progress across Year 6 with you and the children during Parents meetings.

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| Day | Session 1 before playtime  What test? | Session 2 after playtime  What test? |
| Monday 28th January | SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and Grammar) **45mins** | Spelling **20 mins** |
| Tuesday 29th January | Reading Comprehension **1hr** |  |
| Wednesday 30th January | Maths Reasoning 1 **40mins** | Maths Arithmetic **30mins** |
| Thursday 31st January | Maths Reasoning 2 **40mins** |  |

**Monday 11th February and Tuesday 12th February:** Individual Parents Meetings - a progress meeting to find out how your child is doing in Year 6 and be given targets to focus on. We would like the children to accompany their parents, please.

**Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February:** Half-term break

**Wednesday 27th February:** Year 6 SATs Information evening for parents 5pm – the meeting will focus on expectations for the tests and how we can support the children.

**Friday 5th April:** School finishes for Easter holidays (remember normal school hours; no early pick up)

**Year 6 Team (Mrs Fallon and Mr Priddle)**