

Autumn Term 2017- Topic Overview – Elm Class

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families have all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed the break. It is the start of your child's final year at Lympe and Year 6 is an important time, with a focus on new topics alongside revision of the core subjects.



'Living Things and their Habitats' is our Science topic for this first term.

Children will need to be able to describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.

They will also observe and give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics such as habitat, vertebrae etc.

Science is taught in single year groups; our science scheme incorporates a range of resources, including text books which will be used as a research tool when necessary and

assessment at the end of each unit which will provide an overview of how well your child is achieving in the various topics. At the end of the year, the assessments are assimilated and a final gauge of progress at emerging, expected or exceeding is made.

A useful website for scientific research is:

<http://homeworkhelp.stjohnssevenoaks.com/adaptation.htm>

Perhaps if your child finds any other useful sites, they could bring in the web address and share this with the class too!

History will focus on The Tudors, we will look at the Tudors on the historical timeline, research what life was like in Tudor times and compare living and studying as a Tudor child with their lives today. We will look at King Henry VIII, his wives and his impact on the church at that time. Mrs Ladd's art themes will be linked closely to this topic and children will be creating/sewing Tudor badges, looking at the work of Tudor artists and creating Tudor Houses in design technology.

Geography's title for the year will be about Place knowledge – understanding the differences and similarities through the study of human and physical geography of a region. The children will experience using maps/globes and computer mapping to locate countries. Compass work will be undertaken and references made to ordnance survey maps and mapping skills.

The theme for PSHCE is New Beginnings - The theme offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals within a community, and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, while learning (and putting into practice) shared models for 'calming down' and 'problem solving'. Links to feelings about Secondary school are shared and discussions encouraged.

For Maths, children will be working within the year 6 setting, with differentiated tasks accordingly. Our topics in Maths for terms 1 and 2 include the following: decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; problem solving, reasoning and algebra; real world problems and calculations linked to these. Alongside the aforementioned, there will also be the revision of the 4 operations of calculation, their application to real life problems and mental maths skills. Alongside the children's Maths home learning task, they will complete a weekly mental maths test on a Friday. This will focus on improving both the accuracy and speed of the children's mental calculations. We will begin with a focus on timetables and the corresponding division facts, starting with revision of the **2, 3, 4 and 5 times tables to be tested on Friday 15th September**, and **division facts for the 2, 3, 4 and 5 times tables to be tested on Friday 22nd September**. Please find attached a couple of posters which may support your child's revision.

English work In Year 6, our first class text will be *Holes* by Louis Sachar and our literacy work in class will be linked to this. Children will be reading this sometimes independently, sometimes in guided reading and sometimes with you at home – there will be expectations for children to read to certain pages by certain days to ensure that they can then access the tasks in class – this will be rather trial and error for the first book, but as we glean how quickly children can read through the texts, the system will hopefully run smoothly. Obviously your child can continue to read any other books alongside the class text at the same time. As part of our literacy and topic curriculum – there may be occasions when it will be useful for the pupils to experience both the written form alongside the visual (film) version as this can increase pupil understanding and offer an alternative viewpoint of analysis. It may be that some of these film versions are PG classified – we will let you know as and when this will happen and seek your consent. Running alongside the literature, children will undertake a weekly Reading Comprehension session, which focuses on short, discrete texts, as well as a SPAG session (*Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar*). Pupils will be asked to learn spellings at home to be tested every Friday; these spellings are taken directly from the National Curriculum, and there

is therefore the expectation that every Year 6 pupil knows these spellings by the end of the year - any extra support which can be provided at home with regards to these spellings is always greatly appreciated. Please note that I have attached to this letter your child's weekly spelling words for Terms 1 and 2. Input will be provided on the definitions for the spellings in the week leading up to the test, and this includes where there are pairs of words which sound similar but need to be used in different contexts (ie. 'practise' and 'practice').

Useful dates for your diaries...

Shepway Grammar School Tests: Saturday 9th September

First spelling and mental maths tests: Friday 15th September

General Home Learning starts: Friday 15th September

Individual photos: Monday 2nd October

Harvest Festival (KS1 lead): Tuesday 10th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 27th October

Clubs start: Monday 6th November

PGL: Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November

Parent's evenings: Tuesday 21st November 3:30 – 6:30pm & Wednesday 22nd November 3:30 – 6:30pm

Mrs Ladd will continue to teach Elm class on Mondays and Tuesdays and I will be teaching from Wednesday through to Friday. We also have Miss Powney as our class teaching assistant. Please feel free to approach any of us if there are any problems/questions you need answering.

As always, support from you would be most welcome in the form of continued encouragement with home learning, reading and any additional activities that are sent home. I hope this has proved to be a useful source of information.

Could I also remind you that children must have a pair of indoor shoes, a separate pair of shoes for PE (these can be trainers in Year 6) as well as their outdoor shoes – thank you. They may also want jogging bottoms and a warmer top for PE or those chillier days outside. Please note PE sessions will be on Tuesdays (Elite) and Fridays (Hockey) for Terms 1 and 2. Please note that if your child has a pair of shin pads, it would be useful to bring these in for Friday's hockey sessions.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards,

Leah Gee