

St. Andrew's Newsletter Autumn 2 2023

Welcome back to the second half term of the year. Another long half term in the lead up to Christmas, which once again will be very busy.

PE

We will be continuing to swim on a Thursday this half term. As previously, children do not need to wear PE kit, but do need to make sure they remember a coat and have long hair tied back. Our other PE lesson will be with Newcastle United on a Monday. Where possible the sessions will be outdoors so the children will need to be dressed appropriately according to the uniform policy. The PE uniform policy also applies to children who are taking part in the lunch time football club. To ensure the children have their full entitlement to PE, they will also have a short yoga session each week - Year 6 on a Tuesday and Year 5 on a Wednesday. They should wear their uniform for these sessions but need to make sure they are comfortable and may want to wear trousers or bring leggings to put under dresses or skirts.

Homework

The children will be given homework on a Monday, and this should be handed in on a Friday morning. Spellings will be put onto the school website on a Monday and will not be given as a paper copy. Please go to the St. Andrew's page on the website and look on the homework and spelling page. The children should complete three different spelling activities in their books - please look in the front of the homework books for suggestions. The children are also expected to read to an adult three times a week and have this recorded in their reading records. There is no set day for the children to change their reading books, they may choose a new one when they have finished their current book. Finally, they should complete Times Tables Rockstars a minimum of three times a week.

Christmas Play

The children in St. Andrew's class will be taking the leading roles in our Christmas production this year. Scripts were sent out before half term and rehearsals will begin in the first week back. Please help your child to learn their lines and practise projecting their voices. Standing at the end of a hallway or at the top of the stairs and saying their lines can really help with this. It is important that the children bring their scripts to school with them every day so please remind them to put them back in their bags at night. Details about costume and performances will be sent out at a later date.

Curriculum

English - We will spend the first few weeks finishing off our work based on the *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. After this, we will move onto look at a selection of short stories from a book called *Survivor* by Davis Long. Each story tells a tale of survival and bravery, from being trapped in a mine, surviving a plane crash and being the sole survivor of a torpedo attack on a submarine. The children will write survival guides, poetry and formal letters, using the stories as inspiration.

Maths - The children will continue to be taught in discreet year groups for maths. Year Five will work on multiplication and division before moving onto fractions. They will convert between proper, improper and mixed number fractions, compare and order fractions and add and subtract fractions with the same and different denominators.

Year Six will also be working on fractions. They will compare and order fractions, add and subtract and then move onto multiplying and dividing fractions before using this knowledge to solve a variety of problems using fractions.

Science - This unit of work is properties and changes in materials. The children will look at the properties of different kinds of materials, looking at conductors and insulators, melting and dissolving and reversible and irreversible changes in materials. The children will carry out practical tests where they will make predictions, test these predictions, and write a scientific conclusion.

Geography - This half term we will be using maps to help us find out more about the world around us and our local area. We will look at atlases, Ordnance Survey maps and symbols, grid references and compass points. We will also look at maps from the past and present to show how areas have changed and developed over time. There are a selection of recommended reads, both fiction and non-fiction that may interest the children and extend their knowledge further attached to this newsletter.

PSHE - Money Matters. The children will think about how we can decide what value for money is and how we can be influenced by advertising to spend our money. This will lead onto thinking about budgeting and how people can find themselves in debt. They will also look at what interest is, what tax is and how money from taxes can be used.

RE - We will be continuing our topic based on Hinduism this half term.

Computing - Both year groups will be looking at coding this half term.

D and T- The children will be working in groups to create moving vehicles. They will need to design a vehicle that is streamlines and lightweight and fits a design brief. They will need to evaluate and select appropriate materials and investigate how to join these materials, so they are strong. The children will be using a variety of different tools to create their vehicle and make sure it is measured correctly and has a good finish. They will then test their vehicles to ensure they work and suggest improvements.

Music - The children will listen to a variety of different songs and think about the beat and the rhythm and how it makes them feel. They will learn parts of the songs and perform them together. As we get nearer to the end of term, the children will also be learning songs for the Christmas play.

If you or your child has any questions, please ask.

Regards,

Rebecca Hedley