



Year 5/6 Spring 1 Newsletter

Burton Joyce Primary School
Could we survive without the Amazon rainforest?

Spring 1

After a highly successful but tiring Autumn term, we hope you all enjoyed a fun-filled and relaxing Christmas break! Below, we will offer you a brief overview of our curriculum coverage for the Spring term.

English:

Whilst we will cover numerous genres of reading and writing over the half-term, the standout work will focus on studies of adventure stories and diary writing, which will orientate around a study of 'The Explorer'. The children will be exposed to numerous passages of text, we will unpick the qualities and structures in each of them and provide the children with the platform to produce high quality work of their own. As part of our English lessons, the children will continue to develop their grammatical knowledge. Whilst this is essential preparation for the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) SATs tests (for Year 6's), these sessions should also have a significant impact on the children's writing in both Years 5 & 6.

Reading:

At the start of every day, all children will engage in a 30-minute UNITS session designed to develop children's reading skills, understanding of mature vocabulary and ability to apply these skills to challenging comprehension tasks. At home, as part of the children's 'Half Term Home Learning Menu', we are setting the children the task of reading at least 3 times per week (one of which should be with an adult). The children have a model for how to record this in their Planners. If they achieve this weekly reading target, their class teacher will sign their 'Reading Reward Chart', which is also kept in their Planners.

Maths:

Over the half-term, all children will actively participate in 15-minute daily arithmetic sessions. These sessions are designed to develop all pupils' abilities to tackle number-based questions with both speed and accuracy. In math lessons, our Year 5 pupils will develop their understanding of multiplication & division and fractions, whilst our Year 6 pupils will focus on ratio, algebra and decimals.

ICT:

We will spend time re-enforcing the children's e-safety awareness and skillset when presenting work electronically.

Science:

Our focus will be on the topic of 'What are materials and how do they change?' and will include a study of how materials can be grouped and compared and what happens when substances dissolve or are mixed together.

1

Reminder 1

All jumpers / school hoodies need to be clearly named.

2

Reminder 2

Children MUST have their named water bottles and coats with them in school every day.

3

Reminder 3

Children MUST have their named PE kit in school every day.

Geography:

Our umbrella topic is 'Could we survive without The Amazon?' This will include exploration of the benefits of the rainforest, issues relating to deforestation and the biodiversity and locality of the rainforest.

R.E.:

We will delve into a unit entitled 'Investigating Religions and Harmony Near and Far'.

Art & design and technology:

Our time will be spent exploring a unit based around Tudor portraiture, focusing on a specific piece by Hans Holbein the Younger, and the use of collage and paint as artistic tools.

French:

The children will enjoy a unit entitled 'en vacance' (on holiday).

P.S.H.E.: Our third half term is spent exploring at a unit called 'Dreams and Goals', which explores our children's short and longer term ambitions.

P.E.: Whilst P.E. is planned to take place on Thursdays and Fridays, children must have their full P.E. kit in school EVERY DAY, as plans can change at very short notice. Focal points of study are Drumba and Badminton.

Below are a few other dates and events that parents and children will need to be aware of this half-term:

Our first day back was completely off timetable and all of our time and efforts were thrown into our third 'Wellbeing Day' of 2022-23. The children took part in multiple sessions including a mindfulness workshop, a Drumba session and exploring the children's hopes and dreams for their futures.

Parents evening will be taking place during the evenings of both Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th January.

On Friday 13th January, the children will enjoy a pantomime following the traditional tale of Cinderella.

At 5.00pm, on Tuesday 31st January, we will be holding an end of Key Stage 2 assessment evening for the parents of children in Year 6. We will share our approach to the SATs tests, the support we provide for the children in school and what can be done at home to ensure your children are best prepared for the tests.

Additionally, Tuesday 8th February is Safer Internet Day. Throughout this day, our children will engage in activities designed to further consolidate their understanding of what they can do to ensure they can use technology safely, know what actions they should take to avoid finding themselves in unsettling situations and what they should do if they recognize they are in a situation which requires adult support.

This half term, children will receive a Homework Menu, which will include both must-do and optional tasks. These will include tasks to be completed using technology and apps. The 'Half Term Home Learning Menu' will be submitted to children via Teams and they can return their work via Teams too, have it emailed to their class teachers or handed in as a hard paper copy. Reminders of all of the children's log-in details can be found at the back of their Planners.

Each week's spellings will be glued into Planners and tests are timetabled to take place on Fridays.

Should you wish to contact any member of the Year 5 & 6 staffing team, our email addresses are:

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