

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 6 - Autumn Newsletter

8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school for another exciting year. We hope you have all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer holiday. Here is an outline of what Year 6 will be covering this term; it's going to be a busy one!!

Cross-curricular Topic:

Our topic this term is 'The Aztecs'. Some of the things we will be investigating are: Who were The Aztecs, when and where did they live, what were their beliefs and how did their empire end? In Art we will be exploring Aztec designs in weaving and drawing on images of the Aztec sunstone for ideas. The children have already begun researching the Aztecs in order to create an information booklet using ICT. We will also be using world maps to locate where the Aztecs lived, identifying geographical features of Mexico and exploring reasons why Mexico is a popular holiday destination.

English:

This term in Year 6 the children will write a range of texts including narratives, recounts, reports, instructions and poetry. We will soon be exploring "Slam Poetry" which was a great favourite last year. Ask your child to explain! They will also look closely at different texts to analyse writing style and put themselves in the shoes of a range of characters. Reading fluency and comprehension will of course be a major focus throughout the year. Grammar and spelling continue to be very important and we are very excited to be continuing to develop the grammar side of the English curriculum – so don't be surprised when the children use some rather complex terms when referring to their work!

Children will be given 'Talk' homework every two weeks, usually on a Tuesday. This will consist of a short discussion question based on our class work and is a way to help children generate ideas and vocabulary ready for the Big Write session. It only needs to be a five minute talk over dinner or in the car and has proven very beneficial, having a real impact on writing.

Maths:

These are some of the topics we will be covering this term:

- Place value – Comparing and ordering numbers, Factors, Rounding, Prime, Cube and Square numbers.
- The four number operations – Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. The children will also complete investigations and word problems which require them to use their calculation knowledge.
- Fractions – Equivalent fractions, Fractions of a number, Addition and subtraction of fraction, Mixed numbers and Improper fractions.
- Geometry

It is most important that the children continue to practise their times tables and to learn the key mental skills that are fundamental to their understanding of Maths. Of course these will be taught and practised regularly in the maths lessons but please encourage your child to learn and practise them at home.

Spelling:

The children will be given a list of key spellings that children in Year 6 are expected to be able to spell by the end of the year. Please support your child to regularly work through these at home and to test them periodically. In addition, the children will be taught a spelling rule or pattern each week, and will bring home a list of spellings linked to this. The expectation is that the children will write a sentence for each word placing it in context thus demonstrating that they understand its meaning. We will be looking for powerful, complex sentences, accurate spelling and well-formed cursive handwriting. Merits and house points will be awarded! These words will be revisited throughout the week using word searches, quizzes and dictation. Please encourage your child to learn and practise these spellings at home.

PE:

Team Riley have PE on Tuesday and Wednesday and Team Nevelson have PE on Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure an appropriate PE kit is in school every week. As well as suitable footwear – plimsolls for indoor PE, trainers for outside lessons and the Daily Mile, they will also need appropriate warm clothing for outdoor PE in the colder months. This should include trousers and a hoody/jacket (blue or black please) as children should not wear their school jumper or cardigan for PE. **N.B.** Girls who wear tights in winter will need a pair of socks in their PE bag.

Personal belongings and safety:

Please ensure your child understands the importance of road safety, remind them to use the crossings and to have their phones in their bags or pockets when walking to and from school. All phones must be handed in during registration. They will be kept securely in the office and returned to the children at the end of the day.

Many thanks for your continued support. We have already got to know your children well and are really looking forward to the coming weeks. We hope your child will enjoy their learning this term in Year 6.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through the pink slips in the office should you have any concerns or questions.

Kind Regards
The Year 6 Team