

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This newsletter is to give you an overview of what your child will be learning through engagement and enquiry over this half term.

Year 5/6

Welcome back!

What a joy it has been to see all the children back in school under more 'normal' circumstances. The children have come back to school this September full of curiosity and ready to engage with their learning. It has been wonderful to see them interacting with children of different ages in the playground and I think that they are all glad that the bubbles have been 'popped'!

If you have any questions or you need to speak to one of us you can usually catch us at the end of the day on the playground or if this is not possible then please either email the school office or ring and speak to Mrs Bidecant. We look forward to working together with you to support your child's engagement in their learning throughout Year 5 and 6.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge for this period will be "Why does that creature have those features?" and much of our learning will be directly linked to this. Children are naturally curious about why creatures look a certain way and through our study of evolution we will encourage the children to enquire more deeply into the adaptations that have been made over time. Engaging experiments and opportunities to study real fossils will ensure the children are engaged and excited about their learning. Alongside our science studies we will be focusing on Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories in English. These stories provide a striking contrast to our science studies and will encourage the children to think creatively as they write.

English and Maths

We will follow the National Curriculum for Y5 and 6 and develop the children's knowledge and skills in reading, writing as well as spelling and grammar by

- distinguishing between statements of fact and opinion
- finding, recording and presenting information from non-fiction texts and using notes
- providing reasoned justifications for their views
- identifying the audience for and purpose of their writing
- noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary
- using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining]
- editing their own writing
- using expanded noun phrases
- using a colon to introduce a list

- punctuating bullet points consistently
- write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed
- spell some words with 'silent' letters [for example, knight, psalm, solemn]
- continuing to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused

In maths Year 5 children will

- read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 000 000
- interpret negative numbers in context, count forwards and backwards with positive and negative whole numbers, including through zero
- round any number up to 1 000 000 to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10 000 and 100 000
- use formal written methods to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations
- solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these, including understanding the meaning of the equals sign

In maths Year 6 children will

- read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000 and determine the value of each digit
- round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy
- use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across zero
- continue to use formal written methods to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations including long multiplication and division
- identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers
- use their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations

The wider curriculum linked to our Learning Challenge: "Why does that creature have those features?"

This is a science based learning challenge. The children will learn to

- recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

While developing their scientific skills in

- using scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas
- using oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations to report conclusions
- select and plan the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry to use to answer scientific questions
- recognise how and when to use comparative and fair tests and explain which variable need to be controlled and why

Other subjects within the wider curriculum

Art: Sketching and Drawing skill development including study of tone, texture, line and perspective. Children will develop their observational drawing skills and use their drawing skills to complete scientific diagrams; use of sketch books to develop skills will be an important part of our art lessons this term.

PSHE: 'Where do I belong?' is our learning challenge focus for the Autumn term. Initially we will focus

on beginning and belonging and developing resilience in our learning and relationships. Subsequently we will learn about loyalty, compromise, trust and empathy in relationships both on and offline. We will discuss the influence of our family and friends on our emotions and behaviour and consider how our network of support may change over time.

RE: We will read some of Jesus' miracle stories and find out what a miracle is as well as understanding why these miracle stories are important to Christians. We will explore stories told during Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost and develop an understanding of how these relate to Christians' beliefs about God and Jesus Christ.

Music: Music will be taught by our specialist teacher Mrs Clough and will focus on developing an understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch; learning to play the recorder; singing a range of songs in unison and in simple parts; composing simple melodies and rhythmic accompaniments and listening to and discussing a range of musical styles.

PE and Healthy Lifestyles: In PE lessons the children will develop their skills in tag rugby and cross country running. Children will be encouraged to be active every day as they participate in 'The Daily Mile' setting themselves personal fitness goals. Children will also look after their mental health in regular well-being sessions.

Computing: A new scheme of work called 'Switched On Computing' will be taught across school this year. Year 5 and 6 pupils will learn about coding as they develop a computer game using 'Scratch'.

Useful Information

Home Learning: Will be set weekly on a Friday and will be due the following Wednesday. All children need to read daily please to develop skills and build stamina.

PE kit: Needed in school all week please. Children need shorts, jogging bottoms / leggings, t-shirt, jumper/hoody and suitable footwear. PE will take place outside, unless the weather is bad. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so children must be able to remove their own.

Useful websites- for both children and parents

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk> (Keeping your child safe online)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> (Keeping your child safe online)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk> (Keeping your child safe, also excellent source of information for children on a range of issues including peer pressure, relationships and keeping themselves safe)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> (Support for all subjects including maths and English)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/> (Support in finding books for your child to read at home)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10> (Mental maths practise)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> (Quick fire mental maths practise)

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/parents-and-carers/> (Information about the dailymile for parents and carers)