

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This curriculum newsletter provides you with an overview of the learning your child will enjoy over the spring term.

Year 6

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful 2023! This term is focused on 'Frozen Kingdoms' with a wide array of exciting and engaging topics to challenge and intrigue all learners.

Please note that KS2 SATS will take place on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th of May 2023. We ask that you do not book any holidays in this period and that as far as possible all children are in school. A meeting will be held after the Easter break to provide more information.

If your child is invited to attend 'Booster Sessions' after school please be reassured that this does not mean they are not achieving as expected but that we are supporting ALL children to feel confident to sit their exams and do their very best. They may have been invited to attend because we believe that they are capable of achieving the greater depth standard with a little additional guidance or they may lack confidence in themselves and need extra support and reassurance in a small, focused session.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Atkin and Miss Green

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge: In the Frozen Kingdoms project, your child will learn about the regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. They will learn about the similarities and differences between these two regions, including the climate, landscape and natural resources. They will learn how to use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols to identify the geographical locations of the Arctic and Antarctic, and how these, along with the tilt of the Earth, affect day length and warmth. They will investigate polar oceans to learn how they differ from other oceans on Earth and how climate change increases Earth's temperature and leads to rising sea levels. They will learn about the indigenous people of the Arctic, including how their lives have changed over time, and about the positives and negatives of tourism in Antarctica. They will also learn about classifying animals, animal adaptations and evolution, and polar exploration and discovery.

KEY VOCABULARY: climate climate zone hemisphere human human feature physical feature polar precipitation season summer topography vegetation wildlife winter diet insulate lifestyle nomadic settlement transport home

Indigenous nomadic population settlement tradition village Antarctic Circle Arctic Circle degree equator latitude location longitude Northern Hemisphere North Pole polar day polar night Prime Meridian Southern Hemisphere South Pole Tropic of Cancer Tropic of Capricorn

While developing their skills as geographers by

- Asking and answering geographical questions and hypotheses using a range of fieldwork and research techniques.
- Describe the climatic similarities and differences between two regions.
- Describe the distribution of natural resources in an area or country.
- Explain how climate change affects climate zones and biomes across the world.
- Explain how humans function in the place they live.

- Explain how the presence of ice makes the polar oceans different to other oceans on Earth.
- Identify the position and explain the significance of latitude, longitude, equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols in maps and on globes to understand and record the geography of an area.

English: Our main focus book this term will be 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. In this story, Feo and her mother, Marina, live alone in the snowbound woods of Russia. They are wolf wilders (people who teach tamed wolves to live in the wild). When an infamous Russian general arrests Marina, Feo sets off on a quest to save her. With the help of her trusted wolves and a runaway Russian soldier, Feo travels across the frozen landscape and is swept up in the beginnings of a revolution. This book will inspire our writing of newspaper reports, adventure narratives and non-chronological reports.

Spelling lessons will include revision of spelling rules taught to this point and a focus on learning the statutory words for Y5/6. All children will be expected to apply taught spelling rules into their independent writing. Grammar and punctuation lessons will focus on applying knowledge to SATS style questions; ensuring that children are able to recall and use their knowledge of grammar effectively.

Maths: Daily practise of arithmetic will begin this half term as the children will be expected to be fluent in all 4 operations answering approximately 36 questions in 30 minutes including long multiplication and long division! In maths lessons, the children will learn about ratio and proportion and begin to understand basic algebra. They will also continue to develop their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages with a focus on understanding how to apply their knowledge to a range of contexts. The final topic of the spring term will be area, perimeter and volume.

Overview of the wider curriculum

In the spring term our main focus is on Frozen Kingdoms. This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them. We will have a 'virtual visit' to the Polar Museum in Cambridge this term to learn more about the exhibitions and artefacts that they house. Additionally, both classes will take part in the 'Building Resilient Communities' project which has been commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This project aims to raise awareness of a variety of risk-taking behaviours as well as support learning around building a safer, more tolerant and resilient attitude. The children will take part in a 'mock' court session led by the Community Safety and Projects Support Officer.

In other subjects the following aspects will be covered:

History: Polar exploration – Robert Falcon Scott; Ernest Shackleton; Significant events – Titanic

PE: Dance - Why Bully Me?; Invasion Games Hockey; Gymnastics Group Work; Ball Handling Skills- Bee Netball

Art: Printmaking and Sculpture

Science: Classifying living things; Classification keys; Adaptation; Electrical Circuits and Components project

Computing: Evaluating digital content and programming

PSHE: Citizenship and Communities and Digital well-being

RE: Parinirvana (Buddhism) Lailat al Miraj (Islam)

DT: Structures and Engineering

Music: Advanced singing, gaining confidence in performance and continuing to explore notation and composition.

French: As well as learning a bit about France, we'll be having fun learning to greet people, introduce ourselves, do some counting, give our age and birthday. More broadly we'll be learning about how languages work and how to make them work for us.

Useful Information

Home Learning: Spellings will be set weekly on a Friday and will be tested the following Wednesday. A homework grid will be sent home with a variety of tasks for the children to complete over the half term. Children are welcome to bring in their work or upload it to the Google classroom. All children should read daily (20 mins minimum) to develop skills and build stamina.

PE kit: Usually on Tuesday and Thursday for both classes although this may change so kits should be in school all week if possible. Children need shorts, jogging bottoms / leggings, t-shirt, jumper/hoody and suitable footwear. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so children must be able to remove their own if they are worn. All other jewellery must also be removed.

Developing Independence: Children in Year 6 are often encouraged to become more independent in preparation for their transition to KS3. We fully support this however similar issues arise each year! They are as follows...

Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform. This is important as when they attend secondary school there are often strict policies regarding uniforms. Now is a good time to get used to this. Information about the school uniform policy is on the website as follows:

- White/pale blue shirt or polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan
- Grey/black skirt/pinafore dress
- Grey/black trousers/tailored shorts (No leggings)
- Grey/black tights

- PE KIT: Plain dark t-shirt and dark shorts (No football tops) Jogging bottoms and jumper (dark colours if possible)

- Shoes, boots or sandals can be worn, and these should be dark in colour. Plain black trainers are also permitted, although this does not include "high top" trainers.

Behaviour and Safety when walking to and from school

Walking or riding to and from school is one way to encourage such independence. We have had occasions when children have gone to the 'Teletubby' park before school and arrived late to lessons. Please ensure you reiterate what you expect your child to do and how you expect them to behave when they are coming to school on their own.

Mobile Phones

Many children in Year 6 have a mobile phone. If it is necessary for your child to bring their own mobile to school it should be dropped off at the main reception in the morning and picked up on the way home after school has finished. Mobile phones are to be switched off during the day.

Behaviour and Safety Online

If your child has a mobile phone or other internet enabled device please be mindful that they are using this device appropriately as we are not able to resolve issues that occur in relation to social media use that happen outside of school hours. There are many apps that allow parents to track their children's use of the internet to help to keep them safe and happy online. Examples include [Kaspersky Safe Kids Review - EducationalAppStore](#) , [Kidgy - Parental control app Review - EducationalAppStore](#) and many more.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a 'learning-filled' Spring Term.

Websites that may be useful

[NSPCC](#) Keeping your child safe, also excellent source of information for children on a range of issues including peer pressure, relationships and keeping themselves safe

[Thinkuknow](#) Keeping safe online for children and young people as well as parents

[Home - BBC Bitesize](#) Support for all subjects including maths and English

[Topmarks](#) Great games like Hit the Button and Bingo for maths practise

[Cambridgeshire Libraries](#) A wealth of books for you to borrow and we are lucky to have a library in Littleport

[KS2 Maths - 65 Enjoyable Quizzes for Children aged 7 to 11](#) Self marking quizzes for maths

[Spellings MENU - Key Stage 2 Literacy](#) Spelling games

[Spelling games, tests and activities](#) Spelling games