

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! Thank you for the half term projects that have been returned already - they are brilliant and demonstrate real engagement in our new topic. We are so impressed with all the effort that both you and your children have made.

Millfield has a focus on 'Reading for Pleasure' this year and we are keen to provide a wide range of enjoyable texts that tempt children to choose to read so if you have any magazines, annuals or books that your children have grown out of or no longer wish to keep we would be more than happy to take them off your hands! Please drop them into the school office or send them in with your child. Thank you.

We look forward to speaking to you all for telephone parent consultations in the coming few weeks.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge for this period will be "Why can you see the moon in the daytime?" and much of our learning will be directly linked to this. Our science learning this half term will begin with a study of the relationship between the Earth, the Sun and the Moon. The children are brimming with questions about this new area of learning and we are so pleased to see them so engaged and enquiring already. The teachers are learning new facts about black holes, planets, gas giants and galaxies far away as the children share their knowledge and information that they have read and researched already. Science fiction studies in English through the War of the Worlds has also proved very popular with children keen to read the story themselves and others sharing their existing knowledge keenly in class.

English (Year 5 and 6)

We will follow the National Curriculum for Y5 and 6 and develop the children's knowledge and skills in reading, writing and spelling / grammar. The children will study the text 'War of the Worlds' by HG Wells and use this as inspiration to write their own science-fiction stories. In addition to this the children will study a range of non-fiction texts and create and present their own work in this genre. The children will focus on 'ei' and 'ie' words, Latin and Greek prefixes and suffixes, and changing the class of words using suffixes. In grammar they will learn about building complex sentences including relative clauses, the use of colons and semi-colons in complex sentences and using apostrophes and commas correctly. Year 6 will begin to use passive voice in writing.

Maths (Year 5)

Our studies will focus on multiplication and division of larger numbers including the written methods for multiplication of 4 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers and the method for dividing 4 digit numbers by one digit using the 'bus stop' method (see diagram). We will also continue to work on the children's mental arithmetic skills. Our final units will be statistics followed by area and perimeter.

$$186 \div 6 = 31$$

Maths (Year 6)

Year 6 will investigate common factors and multiples, order of operations and BIDMAS before moving onto prime numbers, squares and cubes. They will then begin to add, subtract, divide and multiply mixed fractions. In arithmetic, to prepare them for the SATS, they will be introduced to the question types on the paper and begin to explore methods of solving the equations. They will continue to use formal methods for long multiplication and division.

The wider curriculum linked to our Learning Challenge: ‘Why can I see the moon in the daytime?’ This is a science based learning challenge. The children will learn to

- describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system
- describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth
- describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies
- use the idea of the Earth’s rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

KEY VOCABULARY: solar system planets sphere spherical Mercury Venus Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto Earth Sun Moon axis rotation orbit revolve day night phases of the moon star constellation orbit gravitational pull

While developing their scientific skills in

- Use scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas
- Use oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations to report conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of degrees of trust in results
- Use own experiences to explore ideas and raise different types of scientific questions
- Talk about how scientific ideas have developed over time

Other subjects within the wider curriculum

Art: This half term our focus will be on Painting skills and we will learn to create shades and tints using black and white, choose appropriate materials including paint and paper to adapt and extend work and carry out preliminary studies to test media and materials and mix colour through the theme of ‘Space’.

RE: In RE lessons the children will develop their understanding of Christian narratives and explore the idea of miracles through stories.

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 football and dance. 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.

Colder and Wetter weather: Please ensure your children has a warm coat and sensible shoes (possibly wellies) so that they can enjoy time on the field at break and lunchtimes.

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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)