

# YEAR 6 NEWSLETTER

**Driving Question: (Week 1-3):** What lessons have society learned from significant individuals in black history? Reflect on lessons learned and the changing of history. Evaluate - What type of person do you want to be?

**Driving Question (Week 4-8):** The biomes of the Americas are diverse. In what ways does this impact its inhabitants? Outcome: TASC Wheel - Design a webpage to promote an area of N. or S. America including information related to biome, vegetation belts, human and physical features and the positive/negative impacts of living there for inhabitants?

**Aspiration Condition for Learning: Belonging**  
**Term 1 September – October 2020**

## Geography

This term we are focusing many of our lessons on Geography which links to our driving question (see above). We will use maps and atlases to recap on our prior learning of counties, countries, continents and then move on to learn about and compare North and South America and Arctic and Antarctica with a focus on global sustainability. The pupils will use the 8 points on a compass and 6 figure grid references to study time zones and locations.

At home: help your child by ensuring they understand the key vocabulary – human geography, physical geography, region, compass, biomes, continent, North/South America, climate zones, time zones, environmental.

Use Google Maps <https://www.google.co.uk/maps> or discover new locations on Google Earth <https://earth.google.com/web/>

## Literacy

We are beginning this term looking at the story of Elf Road in fiction, where we will be learning how to create atmosphere in our writing using powerful verbs. For our reading focus this term, we will study the book 'Unspoken' by Henry Cole. This book is a great example of how pictures can tell a story. We will be using this book as to begin teaching children about Black History (see below). Year 6 will be enjoying their class story 'There's a boy in the girls' bathroom' by Louis Sachar this term. This story raises many themes relevant to the children's age group.

Key vocabulary: curious, ancient, scarlet, embers, mocking, clanging, clutching

Grammar: The pupils will be focusing on tenses, word classes, pronouns and conjunctions. These are the pronouns they need to learn:

Personal: I, me, he, him, she, her, you, it

Relative: who, which, whose, that

Reflexive: himself, herself, yourself

Possessive: my, mine, his, hers, yours, theirs

At home: Read poetry together at home. Find and write poems that interest you and try to write your own version. Ensure you are checking all spellings you write in homework books using a dictionary. Don't forget to encourage your child to read every day and also try reading to them for 15 minutes a day too! Consider how you model good reading practices to your child by discussing with them who your favourite authors are.

Use the Story Museum website <https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/collections-story-resources/story-resources> to explore other short stories or Oxford Owl <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Your child was given a Lexia login in Term 6. Please continue to use the Lexia learning platform daily, as it is a fantastic resource to improve reading in a fun and engaging way.

## Maths

This term, we will be learning about and securing our application of number and place value. **It is of vital importance that your child is secure in their knowledge of times tables up to 12x12.** We will be introducing the children to Active Maths sessions, which provide knowledge of number in a fun and active way. There will be a focus on multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 and place value up to at least 6 digits and beyond. Pupils will learn how to round and estimate numbers up to 10,000,000 (ten million) so they will focus on what each digit stands for in each column such as: 19,876,543

10 millions	millions	hundred thousands	ten thousands	thousands	hundreds	tens	ones
1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3

When rounding this number to the nearest ten thousand, they look at the digit 7, look next door at the thousand column – 6 and as this is 5 or over they round up meaning this number rounded to the nearest ten thousand is: 19,880,000.

At home: Please practise times tables. As well as using their PiXL logins, a useful website is [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

## **Physical Education**

To kick start this term, pupils will be learning new skills to improve their long distance running, stamina and pace. We are planning to run a marathon over this term in as shorter time as possible! Pupils will also be learning skills to build their strength and stamina through fitness training. This will help pupils to run longer distances and to form healthy lifestyle habits. PE will be taught outside so please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing as the weather can be changeable.

## **Swimming**

For pupils who have not yet completed their 25 metres in swimming, we hope that they will attend sessions on a Wednesday morning when we have confirmation from Spieball Leisure.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. PE Kit is **white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers**. Please ensure that your child has a **black sweatshirt**.

For swimming your child will need a towel and swimming hat in a named bag.

Boys - fitted swimming shorts (not baggy/surf style)

Girls – full swimsuit (no two piece sets/bikinis)

**For your child's safety, earrings must be removed before any PE lesson including swimming and long hair must be tied back.**

## **Science**

This term pupils will be learning about adaption and evolution. They will describe how the earth and living things have changed over time with a focus on the study of fossils. We will also discover how animals and plants adapt to suit their environment through a study of Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

**Key Vocabulary:** adaption, evolution, fossil, characteristic, extinct, environment, species, habitat, behaviour, genetic

## **Citizenship - Black History**

We will be focusing on Black History in the first few weeks of Term 1, linked to our driving question (see above) and the book 'Unspoken' by Henry Cole. We will be talking about the slave trade in America and Britain between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and learning about the Underground Railroad – a system that helped fugitive slaves to freedom. We will discuss our rights and responsibilities within our community as well as exploring the British Values mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance. We will reflect on the type of person we want to be and the characteristics we already have.

**At home:** This is a fantastic opportunity to explore these issues with your child, as you see appropriate. You could research a famout

## **REMINDERS AND DATES:**

**Uniform:** Please make sure that all new uniform is clearly labelled in case it is misplaced. That way it can be returned to the correct class as soon as it is located.

**Website:** Remember to check the class pages regularly for newsletters, texts, updates and photos from work in class.

**Homework & Spellings:** This will be **sent home** every **Friday via Seesaw** and is **due in** on the **Thursday** of the following week. Homework can be completed on Seesaw or in their homework books.

## **Dates:**

- |                                                                        |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> | INSET Days                                        |
| • <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>                             | Start of Term 1 for pupils in full school uniform |
| • <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>                              | Homework projects due in                          |
| • <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>                                | End of term 1                                     |
| • <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>                                | Start of Term 2                                   |

Here is a copy of our class text for the beginning of this term:

## **Elf Road Text the pupils will learn**

Poppy had always been curious. One sunny afternoon, she was walking down Elf Road when she saw something unusual. In the brick wall, there was an ancient wooden door. The metal handle was shaped like a dragon's mouth. 'If I were you Poppy, I'd stop all this now and go back home' the voice inside her head whispered, pricking her conscience. She really should turn back. She could pretend she had never stumbled

across the door. But did she pay any attention to her thoughts? Poppy rarely did. Gently, she turned the ornate handle and the door creaked open.

Inside, there was a huge, dark hall. On an enormous table, someone had set out a great feast with thick slices of juicy chicken, huge bowls of green salad, glass jars of fresh fruit and silver plates of sweet puddings. Hundreds of tiny people were serving steaming pies, vibrant vegetables, scarlet strawberries like gleaming embers; and tall glasses full of creamy drinks. There was more than sufficient food to feed her whole community, Poppy thought, and there certainly couldn't be many rumbling tummies! They were dressed in curious rainbow-coloured clothes with magenta cloaks, pointed mustard yellow shoes and crimson caps. Poppy tried to talk to the tiny people but they did not say a word! Realising that they were busy, and not wanting to disturb them for fear of being rude, Poppy walked to end of the room.

Placed on the middle of the table, there was a glittering dragon carved out of ice and in its beak there was a folded piece of paper.

*'Look where you wish, but don't touch a dish.'*

So, Poppy wandered further into the hall, walked past a great fireplace and, at the end, she found a crystal cupboard. Amazed, she opened the door and inside was a golden apple sitting on a silver plate. It smelt so sweet and her mouth was so dry that she picked it up and took a bite. The glistening apple tasted of sunlight! At that very moment, Poppy gasped because she had remembered what she had been told.

Instantly, she could hear a thousand mocking voices ringing in her ears like sharp, clanging bells. Poppy shuddered and ran from the echoing sound. Clutching the apple, she dashed through the dark hall, past the great table with the tiny people running behind her. Just in time, she found the wooden door that led her back to her own world.

Amazingly, two very strange things happened after Poppy reached home. First, Poppy planted the apple pips. One grew into a beautiful tree with blossoms of silver and apples of gold that glowed like tiny suns. Her mother said that the fruit tasted sweeter than starlight itself. Secondly, poor Poppy never found the door again, even though she walked up and down Elf Road many times. At school, they said that Poppy was always lost in her daydreams. She dreamed of dark halls, fantastic feasts and crystal cupboards. Sadly, that other world had disappeared and Poppy never found her way back again. Well, at least, Poppy never found her way back...