**January 2017 Newsletter**

Dear children and parents/carers,

We hope that you enjoyed the Christmas break and spent enjoyable time with family and friends – it seems a long time ago now. Mrs Clarke and I would like to thank you for all the generous and decadent gifts that we received – they were greatly appreciated and we felt very pampered – thank you!

We are greatly looking forward to the next term at Wrenbury; the children in Base 5 are a joy to work with and make our jobs very rewarding – We’re sure you are very proud of them.

Last week Mrs Clarke and I ‘hit the road running’ with year 6; you may have found they were quite tired after the first two weeks back! As a result they have settled back in quickly and are putting a great deal of effort and hard work into their learning already. I have explained to them that this is a very important term – we need to cover the remainder of the curriculum in full before revision begins after Easter. I will be expecting 100% from the children but I know they are capable of the challenge and enthusiastic about the weeks ahead. Please contact me if you have any queries or concerns or I can support you in any way.

As well as our key focus on core subjects, the children will also be engaging in a wide range of enriching activities across the rest of the curriculum: in computing we will learn to use a program called Kodu to develop our coding skills and in science we will begin learning about the human circulatory system and the physics behind light and vision. Mrs Clarke will continue to take the class for RE this term and Miss Phillips will also join us one afternoon a week to take additional maths groups. Madame Sharpe will be teaching her excellent french lessons as usual on a Friday morning. Y6 and Y3 will be participating in Singfest '17 'Popera' in March and are already rehearsing for this. A letter will be sent out with details about the massed rehearsal.

The arts are one of my personal passions and this term I plan to focus on textiles. We will be dyeing our own fabric and creating patchwork with our valued volunteer Mrs Mansfield and learning to do batik in class. We will also be welcoming author/illustrator Paul Geraghty to school this week – he will work with each base to inspire writing and teach illustration skills.

Sports are important to us at Wrenbury and the children in Base 5 are particularly keen to be active as much as possible. This term, there are a number of tournaments taking place with other schools in the county and all children will get the opportunity to take part. Mr Sargeant will take year 6 for a full afternoon of PE once every two weeks whilst I work with Base 4. In addition, the children will have a weekly PE lesson with our Sportscape coaches. As a group, Year 6 are brilliant at organising their own games and activities on the playground and really make the most of their morning and lunchtime break (we fit an afternoon break in too, when we can).

I know that many of the Year 6 children have signed up to some of the after-school and lunctime clubs we are offering this term, which is great. I was also pleased to hear that so many children plan to attend our Early Bird Provision that starts this week.

**Being in Year 6**

At the beginning of the year, Mrs Cador worked with the children to come up with a list of what it meant to be in year 6. My feeling is that the children are fulfilling their side of the bargain but it is worth repeating:

* Having a positive attitude and being self-motivated to do your very best.
* Being organised.
* Be punctual - being in school between 8.45 and 8.55am ready to start the day promptly (we begin learning the minute you arrive!).
* Attending school as much as possible (you should aim for 100% attendance – I won’t be taking any holidays in term time and nor should you).
* Being focussed on your own learning in class and letting others learn too.
* Listening to and acting on the advice the teachers give you to help you improve your work.
* Doing MORE than the minimum needed and challenging yourself.
* Not giving up when the learning seems tricky...it is not that you 'can't do it'...you 'can't do it YET!' It is about building your resilience and being able to persevere and we're here to help you with new strategies and support when things seem really tricky (even in reading tests!).
* Doing your homework to the best of your ability and putting in extra time to over-learn important things like maths facts, spelling rules and grammar terms.
* Reading daily and for longer. Reading a wide range of literature - a balanced diet of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Try to speed up your reading pace.
* Being a fantastic role model to the younger year groups.
* Taking on responsibilities in our new School Parliament as a member of one of the following: The Environment Agency, Education Committee, Sport and Health Committee, Community and Charity committee.

**Teaching and Learning**

We have a whole school theme each term for this new school year and this term it is **Journeys'.** The children in year 6 spent time before Christmas creating some wonderful artwork for the school hall that encapsulates the learning for the school.

The quality text to lead our learning this term is **Sky Hawk by Gill Lewis** but this is just one of a large number of books we will study in order to learn about ‘real’ journeys made by inspirational people and animals as well as incredible journeys of self-discovery. Following our visit to The New Vic to see The Snow Queen, we will also be studying modern and classic fairy tales to help with our narrative writing.

Many of the curriculum subjects have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful this term. The holistic Spring term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering. We will try to learn outside of the classroom as much as possible, so please do bring a coat to school, even if the morning is bright and sunny as you leave home. We will go outside whatever the weather.

Here is your **weekly timetable** for this term:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Session 1** | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG  French  Mrs Sharpe |
| **Morning break** | | | | | |
| **Session 2** | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy |
| **Lunch - 1 hr** | | | | | |
| **15 mins assemblies** | Assembly PHSE |  | Assembly  Story |  | Learning Journey  Mr S PE likely to be on this day |
| **Session 3** | Learning Journey  Buddy Reading | PE  Sportscape | Learning Journey  Carousel activities with Mrs F, Mrs C and Miss P | Learning Journey  Science or Computing |
| **Session 4** | RE  Mrs Clarke | Assembly  Y6 Stars of the Week |

Note: *Learning Journey time will be used to cover the other subjects - Science, geography, history, computing, art, D&T and music.*

**PE:** You MUST be prepared for PE with a full kit - red t-shirt, black shorts and trainers. A sweatshirt/joggers in grey/black/ navy for the colder sessions is recommended.

**Regular homework:**

* **Maths** - Mymaths **and/or** other maths homework – set each week with a 7 day deadline – can still be completed if ‘overdue’.

Note: you can log ontoMymaths at any time to consolidate your learning and work through their ***Booster Packs***, not just as directed homework.

* **Spellings** - Spelling test on Thursdays. You will also be required to learn all the 100 Y5/6 words and revise the year 3/4 list of words. You are well on your way with this. They are tricky words so will need extra time to learn. The whole terms list has been provided.
* **SPaG** – revision of items covered since the end of Y2.
* **Daily reading** for at least 30 minute.
* **Optional Homework** – projects to engage and challenge you! The children have commented that they would like more homework (!) so some extra writing opportunities may be added in later in the term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Francis and Mrs Clarke