

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 6 AUTUMN TERM 2020

WELCOME BACK

As a year team, we have been impressed with the maturity and kindness our Year 6 children have displayed. Although some of our systems have been adapted, the children are thriving and flourishing both academically and socially. Our topic for the first term is focussed on developing our class and year team community, building rewarding relationships and developing skills of personal reflection through mindfulness and guided mediation to put in place the structures required to meet our individual potential and enjoy a fruitful learning journey. We will be balancing this academically as well as personally and emotionally through teamwork games, challenging learning with high expectations coupled with well-managed support. These themes will underpin learning in all subject areas this term. I would like to take this opportunity to say that the teaching staff of Year 6 are dedicated to your child having a successful and enjoyable year, so please contact us if you would like to share any of your child's successes or if you have any concerns.

ENGLISH

Based on the award winning short movie 'Ruin' as well as 'James and the Giant Peach' the children will be writing character descriptions, internal dialogues and diary entries. The purpose of this is to develop an understanding of character development and the skills needed to write a short story.

Using 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick as stimulus, the children will immerse themselves in the text and images with the following outcomes: predicting, through writing or drawing, the hidden message inside the automaton, writing a letter to Hugo, summarising how the characters have changed over the course of the novel as well as ongoing work of making predictions, inferences, studying new vocabulary and using evidence to deepen their understanding of the author's choices within texts as well as explaining their own opinions. 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' fuses cinematography with graphic novel writing. The book has also been made into a full length feature film which we will be using, as well as the detailed drawings, to engage the children in the book. Spelling rules will be taught at the start of each week and followed up with activity work at the end of each week. Grammar will also be taught within Literacy lessons as well as during its own independent, weekly lesson.

MATHEMATICS

The children's learning will continue to be taught through the Maths No Problem curriculum. We are aware that the children have not accessed all of the Year 5 learning in this area so have dedicated a lot of thought in adapting lesson plans and supporting the children's knowledge to be successful. Our aim is to skilfully challenge mathematical knowledge whilst supporting all children to feel confident and stretched in their learning. This term, the key focus areas will be around 'number': comparing and ordering, rounding, multiplying and dividing large numbers as well as decimals, working with multiples and factors as well as in depth work using fractions. Mental mathematics and arithmetic will also be a key focus. This is not only the ability to recall all times tables facts (as well as associated division facts) but also mental mathematical tricks and skills which will be taught and practised. The expectations in maths this year will be high so our children would benefit from as much as they can do outside of school from timetables practice in the car to telling the time, increasing familiarity with money or even measuring amounts to help with cooking or baking.

COMPUTING

The children will be completing a unit on e-safety, learning about what social media is and how this can affect people personally and socially. They will also be revising basic spreadsheet skills using formulas in order to solve problems. They will also be learning conditional formatting.

D&T / Art

During our D&T lessons this half term we will be making birthday cards for each other that include pop-up and moving elements. To do this we will be using a variety of skills and materials including craft knives and technical drawing mats.

SPANISH and FRENCH

Languages will be taught by Modern Foreign Languages teachers from Twynham School. They will continue to increase the children's vocabulary and their use of this in conversation as well as learning more about Spanish / French culture. Children will continue to follow the same language they were taught in Year 5.

MUSIC

We will be performing music from the Caribbean using jumbie jams, a small type of steel pan. We will also be composing melodies based on the 12 bar blues, recording these using standard notation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Please remember to come into school in your PE kit on Games and Gym days.

Our Games days are:

6JW, 6AB, 6AM and 6DB — Wednesday

PE (gym) is on:

6JW and 6AB —Tuesday

6AM and 6DB—Thursday

Multi skills and gymnastics will be taught this term. Please ensure that children have trainers in school every day and that all PE kit is named and in school at all times. Shoulder length hair should be tied back (boys and girls) and all jewellery removed. Recently pierced ears must be covered with tape supplied from home.

SCIENCE

The children will be learning about evolution, inheritance, mutation and natural selection. This will be taught through the evolution of a range of different animals (including dinosaurs, mammals, lizards etc) over time as well as where we came from and how our DNA is formed and makes us who we are. In addition to this, after half term, the children will be experimenting with and learning about light and electricity.

RE

After half term, we will be studying a variety of creation stories (from a range of religions). In the lead up to Christmas we will then be learning about the prophecy of the Magi and creating comic strips to represent the story.

HOME LEARNING

In order to consolidate the children's learning, home learning tasks will be set each week. We have provided each child with three CGP SATs buster home learning books—reading and maths (arithmetic and SATs questions). Weekly home learning will be set to consolidate learning the children have accessed at school.

Home learning will be set each Thursday and due in the following Tuesday.

In addition, every child should read regularly at home – we ask our children to aim for an average of at least 20 minutes per night. It would benefit your child greatly if they could be encouraged to discuss the language, characters and plot lines. We would also ask that you encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction.

Please support your child in learning their multiplication and division facts as we will be encouraging all children to try and achieve Times Tables badges.

Over end of term breaks, children will be given an extended task or project to complete at home.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's education or well being, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher. We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Mr J Wilson

Class 6JW

Year Leader

Miss A Melvin

Class 6AM

Miss A Buller

Class 6AB

Mr D Breeze

Class 6DB