

Spellings:

This term, spellings in Year 6 will mostly consist of consolidating rules previously taught, to ensure that the children are able to spell a range of vocabulary accurately and be prepared for the spelling element of the SATs test. Now we have had two years of the 'new style' SATs spelling papers, it is clear how crucial this revision time is, as the spellings are derived from the whole of the KS2 spelling curriculum. Below are just a small sample of the rules we will be learning. In due time, we will send out further support on the rules to enable practice at home. Our weekly spelling lists will continue to consist of five words linked to the rule we are learning that week and five words either generated from an individual's written work or from the statutory spelling lists. **Accurate spelling is essential in the end of year writing assessment, so it is crucial that all children work with focus on this area.**

- Words from the statutory word list (found in Home School link book, along with the Year 3/4 words that need to be secure) **Please practice these at home, alongside the weekly spelling lists.** It is **crucial** that the children are familiar with the words on this list so they can also utilise the resources within class to support them spelling these words.
- Words ending in -cial and -tial e.g. commercial, confidential
- Words with the 'ough' letter string, including different pronunciations e.g. bough, cough, sought
- Homophones of commonly misspelt words e.g. dessert/ desert, complement/ compliment
- Words with the 'k' sound spelt 'ch' e.g. monarch

Homework timetables and expectations:

This term homework will be set using the CGP revision books that the children will be coming home with. There will be an additional letter outlining the expectations for this homework, and I will be carefully going through the expectations with the children. The children will be given these books in a zippy wallet, so they can keep them together. Each week, the children will be assigned pages to complete, and we will mark these together on a Friday. Self-marking and correction is a powerful tool in learning, and we want to utilise this as much as we can. The children will continue to have spellings set, and a spelling test on a Friday. As always, if your child is finding part of their homework difficult, please empower them to come and ask myself or Mrs. Cobley for support (this is also good practice for Secondary School, where the children have a lot more independence!) Mathletics will still be available for the children to use to supplement their

How can you support us at home?

Please can you ensure that your child reads each evening and this is recorded in the Home School Link Book. If they read their book independently, please ask a couple of questions about the book, a favourite part, or how they are enjoying it, encourage them to write comments about their reading in their red book. Please also sign the Home Link Book at the end of each week and discuss with your child how he or she feels about their week at school. Please encourage your child to write in their books themselves on a regular basis e.g. writing comments, recording activities, as this will help to prepare them for using a homework diary in Secondary School. I am always interested to read the comments that are written as this enable me to celebrate successes and achievements and identify any areas of concern.

PE Days:

For the first half of the spring term, we will have PE on Thursdays and Fridays. In the second half of the spring term, we will have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please remind your child to make sure they have their PE kit in school at all times, in case of a last minute change of plan. We have a limited amount of spare PE tops for an emergency, however children without appropriate footwear will not be able to take part in the PE lesson. Long hair must tied back (as it should be for school) and earrings should be able to be removed, or tape to cover them should be brought from home.

English and Maths Websites:

BBC Bitesize revision is an excellent starting point for SAT's revision:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

(for the new site, which mainly has short clips to help understanding)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/> (the old site, which includes games and quizzes)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> - this site has a good range of times tables games to help improve speed and accuracy/

<https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-6> - this has a wide range of objectives that you can use to practise your maths.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html> - this provides further links to online games linked to English objectives.

Recommended Reading for topic:

'Bella Balistica and the Temple of Tikal', by Adam Guillain. A novel where the heroine goes to Guatemala and the ancient Maya ruins of Tikal.

'The Ancient Maya', by Jackie Maloy

'You Wouldn't Want to be a Slave in Ancient Greece' by Fiona Macdonald

If you had time, places to visit:

The British Museum in London is an excellent place to visit to explore some of the 'secrets from the past'! There you will find the Elgin Marbles (should they really be here – or should they have stayed in Greece?) the Rosetta Stone (what secrets did it reveal?), artefacts from Egypt, and some Mayan artefacts in its Mexico room (Room 27). While you are in London, you could also go to Cleopatra's Needle (on the Victoria Embankment, near the Golden Jubilee Bridges) a famous Egyptian artefact. While you stand there – imagine having to transport it from Egypt to London in 1877!

Recommended reading/ websites for science:

DK Eyewitness 'Electricity' by Steve Parker

'Electricity: Super Science' by Rob Colson

'Light', DK Eyewitness Guide

'Tabletop Scientist—The Science of Light: Projects and Experiments with Light and Colour', by Parker Steve

If you had time, places to visit:

The Winchester Science Centre has some excellent hands on exhibits relating to electricity: Human Battery, People Power and Simple Circuits. The Science Museum in London also has fun exhibitions that link to electricity and light. The Natural History Museum is just next door, which is also worth a visit!