

Spellings:

Spellings in Year 6 consist of learning new spelling rules and 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. Spelling lessons will also cover accurate and efficient use of dictionaries and thesauri and how to effectively proof read work. This year, weekly spelling lists will 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.**
- Add suffixes beginning with vowels to words ending in -fer.
- Prefixes involving the use of a hyphen.
- Homophones with the endings -ce and -se e.g. device/devise, advice/advise, practice/practise, licence/license
- Words ending in -able/-ably and -ible/ibly.
- Words ending in -cious and -tious.

Homework timetables and expectations:

All homework is given out on a Friday, to be handed in the following Friday. We will continue to use our two homework books, alternating them each week. Homework will usually be Maths and English, but other curriculum areas, such as topic, may be given in place of one of these. Unless otherwise stated, homework should be completed in the appropriate homework book. The presentation of the work in these books should be to the same standard as expected in class, with the same writing tools as used in lesson i.e. no biro's please and in blue or black ink if using a handwriting or fountain pen. Maths homework should be completed in pencil. A spelling list and spelling task will be also be given each week, and children should practice their spellings in the best method for them. We will continue to use Mathletics and Spellodrome to enhance our homework, but even if specific tasks are not set for homework, please continue to encourage your child to use these sites. Each Monday I check the websites and print out any certificates. It would be great to see everyone in the class earning at least one certificate from each site this half term!

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 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:

This term we will be doing PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has a named PE kit in school at all times, in case of a last minute change of plan. Long hair must tied back 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:

'Australia and Oceania' by Mel Friedman

'Stories from the Billabong' by James Vance Marshall

'Learning about Australia' by Lisa Owings

'Australia for Kids: People, Places and Cultures', by Baby Professor

'Animals of the Australian Outback' by Baby Professor

'Emily's Surprising Voyage' by Sue Purkiss

'Alone on a Wide Wide Sea' by Michael Morpurgo

If you had time, places to visit:

Unfortunately, a trip to Australia is a little tricky! However, using Google Earth to 'visit' the 'land down under' would be a fun way to see what Australia is like! London Zoo has animals that originate in Australia, which would be an interesting and informative day out.

Recommended reading/ websites:

'Human Body a Children's Encyclopaedia (DK Reference)' by DK

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/circulation/read/1/

<http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/heart.html>

'Evolution Revolution', by Robert Winston
Scientists Who Made History: Charles Darwin', by Cath Senker

If you had time, places to visit:

The Winchester Science Centre has some interesting hands on exhibits linked to the human body. They also have the 'Colon Café' – a journey of discovery through an enormous colon, learning about good and bad bacteria!