**Fox Class Newsletter** 

**Autumn 2024**

Hello to all parents and guardians of year 6 children. We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday.

At the time of writing (Wednesday evening), I have had the absolute pleasure of meeting your children and have completed my first week of teaching at Tewin Cowper. The children have also met the teacher that will be teaching them on Thursday and Friday, Miss Easter. They are settling in to this new, and most important, year really well. I have been most impressed with the standard of motivation and behaviour that the children have shown so far – they are keen to learn and to enjoy all aspects of school life again after their long break! So far highlights have included a team building activity which involved making a bridge out of straws – plenty of initiative was shown and team skills demonstrated, and lots of fun was had!

I look forward to meeting some of you after school next Wednesday; in the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries please do come and find myself, Miss Bedford or Miss Easter.

Mrs Trendall

**Adults in Year 6 are as follows:**

Mrs Nicki Trendall – teacher Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday AM

Miss Angeline Easter – teacher Thursday, Friday

Miss Tasha Bedford – TA

**Drop off and collection**

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. Children walk through the playground to their classroom. Everyone has been on time so far – thank you as every minute of learning in year 6 counts!

**Lunches and snack**

As last year, each morning children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home. Please make sure you have **funds in your Arbor account** if your child will be eating school lunches. They can mix and match school lunches and packed lunches throughout the week.

**Children may bring in their own snack, but this must be a piece of fruit.**

**What to bring each day**

* Water bottle (named)
* Book bag (no rucksacks)
* Reading folder (record and book)
* Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

**Please label ALL clothing!**

**Library**

We will be allocated a weekly library slot. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each week so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

**Home learning**

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more**!

We don’t set any regular formal home learning activities at Tewin Cowper. Instead, we really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication…to name but a few things!

We will also be encouraging the use of Times Table Rockstars at home to support with times tables. A thorough knowledge of times tables makes a huge difference to a child’s understanding of mathematical concepts and year 6 children will find it helpful to develop as quick a speed of recall as possible!

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**PE**

PE in Year 6 will take place on **Wednesdays and Thursdays**, and will take place from the first week back. **Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper.** Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days. If you have ordered your child’s kit but it has not arrived yet, please let them wear the old kit for now, and then use the new kit as soon as you have it.

They will be doing half of their PE lessons outside this first half term, so must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

**Class reading book**

Our first whole-class reading for pleasure book will be **When the Sky Falls** by Phil Earle. We will be enjoying some of this as a class each day. The book is set during WW2 and so is linked to our history topic.

**Autumn Term: learning overview**

**Maths**

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

Our units this half term include number, addition and subtraction.

**English**

Our first unit is a narrative unit and will focus on the “The Night of the Gargoyles” by Eve Bunting, and “The Mysteries of Harris Burdick” by Chris Van Allsburg.

**Music**

We will be following a scheme entitled “Finish This” which has been produced for schools by the English National Opera. This exciting project will allow the children to take on the role of composers which will take them into imaginary worlds of colour and images based on the creation of their musical ideas.

**PE**

The class is taught by Premier Education for one lesson, and Mrs Haydon for the other. This first half term, the children will be doing both gymnastics and OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities). In Autumn 2, they will move onto PE Fundamentals and Ball Skills.

**Science**

We will be learning all about classifying big and small living things such as animals and plants. Then we will be exploring light and reflection after half term.

**History**

We will be studying an exciting unit based on World War 2 this half term. We start with the causes of the war and then consider the impact of various events (such as the Battle of Britain) on the war as well as how people at home were affected by such things as rationing, evacuation and air raids.

**Geography**

After half term our Geography unit will be based on the question: Why does the population change? This will cover global population changes, why people migrate and how climate change is impacting the population.

**Art**

**After half term we will focus on craft and design unit called Photo Opportunity. We will be looking at photos, digital art and recreating paintings.**

**French**

To start the term we will be recapping core vocabulary and classroom commands, moving on to French linked to being at school.

**RE**

In our Creation unit, we will be considering the concepts of creation and science, and asking whether or not they are conflicting or complimentary. The children started exploring this in year 5 so we will be going on to cover this in greater depth this year.

**Computing**

Our focus on online safety this half term will help the children to learn and to be aware of how to navigate the internet in an informed, safe and respectful way. We will then move on to looking at computer systems and networks and linking this to Bletchley Park.

**PSHE**

We will be thinking about “Me and my Relationships” during this half term, focusing on how we develop healthy relationships and skills of working collaboratively.

**Design and Technology**

Our first unit will be exploring structures, looking at structure of playgrounds.

Our second unit will be looking at mechanical systems, focussing on automata toys.

**Maths**

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. We begin the term by repeating some of the core Year 2 content: adding and subtracting across 10.

Although it might sound as if we are backtracking too far, these skills actually underpin working with much larger numbers, which the children do in the next unit: numbers to 1000. (Children find this VERY exciting when we introduce it!)

You can support your child with their maths fluency by practising things like:

* Number bonds to 10, 20, 50 and 100 (e.g. 3 and 7, 12 and 8, 35 and 15, and 44 and 56)
* 2, 5 and 10 times table – skip counting forwards and backwards, as well as knowing times table facts
* Doubles and halves

One Minute Maths is a brilliant app that gives children quick-fire questions to practise their maths fluency. It is free to download and use.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>