

Welcome back!

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that the children are ready to have lots of fun with their learning over the next few weeks!

This term our topic is 'People who help us'. We will be learning about all the different people who help us including doctors, nurses, the police and firefighters.

In order to encourage the children to develop their communication skills we will continue with Wonderful Wednesday's show and tell session. A letter will be sent out to confirm the topics for each session but we will start with talking about what we did in the holidays and sharing our photographs on the children's PSPs.

In maths we will continue to develop the children's knowledge of number through songs, stories and practical activities. We will practice counting to five, ten or 20 and beyond and we will also be thinking about which numbers are one more than a given number, or one less. If you could practice this at home that would be great!

In Literacy we will be learning more about phonics and how we put sounds together to make words to read and write. We will also be sharing the story of 'A squash and a squeeze' and we will be predicting what we think will happen next.

In PSHE we will be thinking about what makes us special, our talents and skills.

P.E. will take place on a Thursday morning and we will be practising our throwing and catching skills and using these to play some small games.

This half term we will continue to have gardening on Monday mornings. Please can you make sure that your children bring a suitable coat to school on these days - appropriate for the weather. We will also continue to have dance lessons every Tuesday morning.

Our focus for BLP this half term is distilling and how we can improve our learning by sharing and explaining our thinking with others. Foundation will also continue to develop our understanding of the rights of the child by focusing on the right of children to have the best health care possible (Article 24) and the right for all children to have an education that develops their abilities and talents (Article 29).

Thank you in advance for all your support and we look forward to working with you!

The Foundation Team



Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and the children are ready for another exciting half term in Year 1.

Our learning focus this half term will continue to be around 'animals'. Our class-based learning will be as thematic as possible, with lots of lessons and learning activities linked to non-fiction books about different animals.

In geography we will be learning about the continents and oceans of the world and where different animals come from. In art we will be learning about different animal patterns and applying the painting techniques learnt last time to make our own animal patterns. In music we will be listening to live music. We will explore the music of Peter and the Wolf and how different instruments represent different animals. We continue to perfect our computer skills and will be thinking about how we can use Beebots to write our own algorithms (sequence of instructions).

PE is every Wednesday; please ensure your child has the correct PE kit (t-shirt, shorts and pumps) and that it is named. We will be learning yoga with Yoga Bugs. We will be learning about different yoga positions through a story. Swimming takes place every Friday, so please send in a named towel and swimsuit, in a bag.

Our BLP focus will be distilling, which will support children in further understanding their learning and more of the world around them. As always our curriculum will link to the UNICEF charter of children's rights, our main focus will be article 13: The right to find things out and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing or writing. We will be doing this through activities such as school council and circle time.

Home learning will be set on a Friday and needs to be returned to school the following Wednesday. Please also share the books the children bring home and record any reading in the yellow reading record.

Thank you for your support!

Miss Sheppard, Miss Alsop, Imogen, Louise and Ola



Happy New Year!

In English we will be reading *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. We will sequence the story and describe the characters. We will also be learning about writing letters, instructions and making posters. We will discuss children's right to privacy and the need to respect the privacy of others (Article 16). In Maths we will be learning about time, sequencing events, ordering days of the week and months of the year. We will also be learning about measure.

In Science the topic is everyday materials and their uses, focusing on sorting and using different materials. Our History and Geography will be looking at the Great Fire of London, learning about where London is, how it started and what London was like at the time. We will also be learning about the countries and capital cities in the United Kingdom.

In Computing we will be looking at algorithms and how computers follow routines. The BLP (Building Learning Power) focus is on 'distilling' which means we will be reflective on our behaviour and learning.

PE has changed to Wednesdays on and children will need their PE kit (shorts, t-shirt and pumps). Swimming is on Fridays and children will need a swimming costume or swimming trunks and a towel in a named bag. Dance lessons will be on Tuesdays. We will be doing gardening fortnightly on Mondays.

Photographs and videos from home on PSPs will help pupils to share their news from home especially weekend news.

Spellings will be given out on Mondays and will be tested the following Monday. Please help your child to learn these. Children will read regularly. Please share and discuss stories with your child, and read with them regularly.

Thank you.



Happy New Year! After a restful break the children are ready to start the new year having fun designing their own purses for Design Technology week.

This half term's Learning Journey will explore the first civilizations on Earth, focusing on the achievements of the Ancient Sumerians and how they have influenced our lives today. In Science we will be investigating light and Hazel class will become scientists while conducting experiments to understand how light travels and how we are able to see. We will be using our vision to develop our drawing abilities in Art, drawing a range of pictures from landscapes to objects and still life, using different mediums.

During our English lessons we will be focusing on different books to collect ideas when creating our own short stories, focusing on sentence structure and adding exciting adjectives. We will renew our library books every Tuesday afternoon, please comment in the yellow books if your child has particularly enjoyed the book they have chosen. In Maths we will begin the term by practicing using money and calculating measurement then moving on to developing our adding and subtracting skills later in the term.

Our topic for RE is 'community' where we will be sharing our faiths with the class and discuss those of people who live near us and share our school. In PSHE we will be learning about 'how to deal with risky/negative situations' focusing on how to ask for help when dealing with peer pressure. This half term's Building Learning Power focus is on 'distilling' which means we will be reflective on our behaviour and learning. Our Rights Respecting focus will be Article 31, 'Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities'.

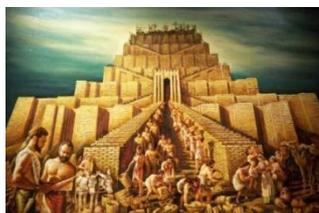
We will be heading to the courts to learn the skills needed for playing Badminton in PE on Thursdays, dance classes will continue to be on Tuesdays and swimming on Friday. Please send your children's kit in for these days. Every other Monday we will spend some time outside gardening with Hannah. Neelam will cover a range of topics during Deaf Studies each week and Michael will be holding our BSL one to one's and reading a BSL story each week.

During February, Hazel class will be going on a trip to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Centre to watch a performance of Peter Pan. Pupils will be taken on a magical journey through imaginary worlds, meeting some interesting characters on the way and having opportunities to engage with the performance throughout. This will link to our Music lessons where we will be listening to live music and composing our own.

Home learning will be sent home each Friday to be returned by Wednesday and we really appreciate your support with helping your child to complete these tasks.

Please continue to keep us updated with any home news in your child's home school book and thank you for all the weekend news pictures you continue to send in.

Miss Blackwell, Rachel and Neelam



What's on: Year 4 Pine Class



Happy New Year! We hope you have had a happy and restful holiday. We have an exciting half term ahead in Pine class – our new learning journey (combining history and geography) will be focussing on the Romans and how their invasion affected Britain. This topic will also be touched upon in art and in music lessons as we learn about Roman culture.

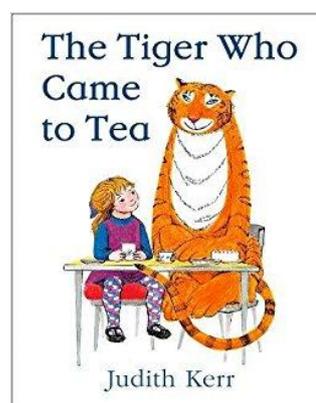
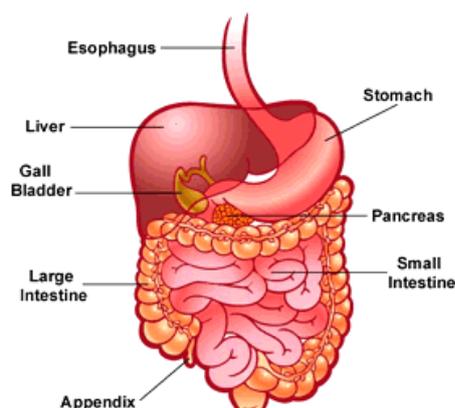
In English we will be learning about classic children's stories: 'Old Bear', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. As we learn about the stories together the children will develop their sentence-writing ability through work on high-frequency words, spellings and English grammar. In keeping with our BLP focus on distilling, we will think about how to use these skills in other subject areas.

Maths lessons this term will be based around number skills, an introduction to multiplication and telling the time. We will link our maths skills to computing lessons by using different computer programmes to represent data. In science we will be learning all about the human body; particularly focusing on digestion and teeth.

This half term we will be thinking a lot about the children's right to be part of their community (article 23 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). This will be discussed in RE lessons and in PSHE as we think about keeping safe, happy and healthy.

Please continue to support your child by reading with them daily and by encouraging them to complete their home learning. This will be given every week on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Wednesday.

PE lessons will now be on a Thursday. Please make sure your child has a full, properly-fitting PE kit available at all times.



What's on for Year 4 Sycamore — Spring A 2018

Happy New Year to you all!

This year, our Learning Journey is all about the Roman civilisation. We will be learning all about how the Romans changed Britain and the rest of the World. We will be undertaking a Design Technology project to make a Roman catapult.

In English work, we will be writing diary entries from the point of view of the people living on the British Isles at the time of the invasion. We will be writing News stories about Boudicca and her resistance to the Roman invasion. We will also be creating instructions for the making of our Roman catapults.

In Maths, we will be continuing to improve our number skills and beginning work on statistics and data handling. We will be pretending to be Roman Soldiers carrying out a census of new lands and presenting the data we find. We will also begin to learn about simple fractions.

Our Science work this half term will centre around the Digestive system. We will be learning about the main organs involved and what happens to the food we eat.

In Computing, we will be presenting our maths data in a variety of ways using different programs. We will talk about how data is stored and retrieved by computer programmes and how it can be analysed in different ways.

We will be learning about what it means to belong to a community in RE and thinking about ourselves and the contributions we make to different groups.

In P.E, we will be working on basketball skills and learning the rules of the game and how to play as a team. **P.E. will now be on Thursday. Please ensure that your child has a well-fitting, full school P.E. kit available at all times.**

Our BLP focus is Distilling, so we will be practising taking elements of our learning and using them in different contexts. Our Rights Respecting focus will be on our right to have our own opinions and beliefs. (Article 14)

Please continue to read with your child every day and help them to complete their homework, which will be sent home every Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. Also remember to use the online learning resources (Purple mash, Mathletics, Bug Club...etc). You can find your child's log-ons at the back of their home school book.



During Maths we will focus on time and 3D shapes. We will be looking at ordering times within the day and then telling the time using digital and analogue clocks. We will be looking at the properties of a range of 3D shapes and different ways to classify them. Please encourage your children to take note of times during the day, such as what time they get up and go to bed.

In Science we shall be looking at forces. We will learn about gravity, air resistance and water resistance. The children will be planning and conducting lots of different exciting investigations around these forces. We will continue to develop pupil's ability to question things, so they will be given lots of opportunities to ask questions and then follow these up to find the answers.

In our learning journey we will be looking at when the Vikings invaded Britain. We will find out about where they came from, their way of life, their art and their culture. We will also have our DT week this half term focusing on nutrition and cooking. We will be designing and make a Viking style meal to inform others of past diets and foods available.

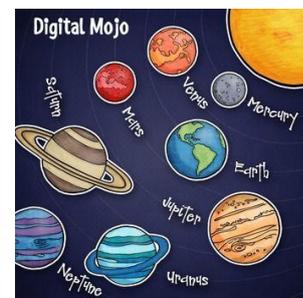
Through RE we will focus on community: listening to others and learning about our own identity. This will link with article 30 of the UNICEF charter of children's rights. 'You have the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family'. They will be able to share their own backgrounds and have the opportunity to listen to others talking about their identity. We will also share Chinese New Year and discuss their customs and traditions.

In PE we will focus on football. Learning a variety of skills, as well as ball control. Children will really need to master using their feet to control a ball, so they can join in with playing a game of football. They will need PE kits on a Monday, suitable for PE (shorts/trousers/t-shirts/jumpers); we may be going outside for PE this half term so make sure they can wrap up warm. Swimming will continue to be on a Friday.

English will bring together learning from other areas. We will continue to work on creating sentences in English word order, using a range of adjective and connectives, using Sentence Street Once a week children will focus on developing their independent writing, they will also have a spelling focus. Please encourage your child to learn their spellings at home.

Thank you for continued support.

Mrs Plews & Miss Russell



Happy New Year to you all! We hope 2018 will be a happy and healthy year for you all.

We are happy to welcome Jo Coles onto the Y6 staff team. Jo is our new Teaching Assistant who is covering Danielle's maternity leave. Jo knows us all well having volunteered to support in Longwill over the last two years.

Our Learning Journey for the Spring Term is based on the events of World War 2. This provides many exciting opportunities to explore the causes and effects of the war and for developing an understanding of how people coped and showed great resilience throughout this difficult time. In English we will base our learning on the wonderful novel by Michelle Magorian and the film of the same name, 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. If you are able to, please do read the book or watch the film with your child and if you have any stories or memorabilia from this time that you are willing to share, we would love to hear from you.

In RE we will focus our learning on the concept of 'Community'. This will include learning about Chinese New Year and a broad understanding of Buddhism.

PE on Mondays will help the pupils develop their football skills and swimming continues to be every Friday, so please do ensure your child has the correct kit for each of these sessions.

Home Learning will be given every Friday to be handed in on Wednesday morning at the latest. Please do continue to support your child with their Home Learning, especially with their reading and spellings.

