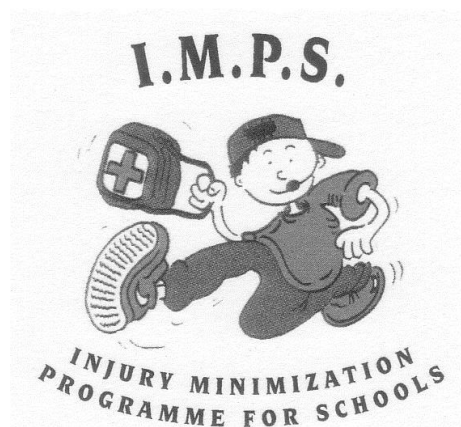


Class 6

Autumn Term 2015



Queen Victoria



I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. Already Year 6 has settled in well and started the new academic year very positively.

In Literacy we will begin by looking at basic sentence structure, in particular how nouns and verbs can be modified and identify different types of clause and phrases. We will then explore different ways of increasing sentence complexity and find new ways of connecting ideas together within and across paragraphs.

Our text level work will look at ways of improving the quality of descriptions by expanding ideas and getting them to flow together. This will really help to push the level of creative writing to a higher level.

We will continue to focus on spelling patterns and strategies for remembering more difficult ones, such as mnemonics or words within words. **Spellings are critical in improving your child's vocabulary, enabling them to become more versatile and write at a higher level.** Part of the homework will be to write in increasingly complex sentences to contextualise the new words and should be taken very seriously as this can be fundamental to progress.

Numeracy will build on Year 5 objectives but will focus on the application of concepts. Topics to be covered include place value, multiplication and division, fractions decimals and algebra.

We will focus heavily throughout the term on their knowledge of tables, learning them at speed both forwards and backwards and to a high level. The times tables will be memorised up to 12x but we will work hard to ensure that calculations up to 19x and beyond become rapid and instinctive. This gives them a great sense of achievement and loads of confidence so the more help you can provide with tests and games at home the better.

Just a quick reminder that the calculation policy is available on our website.

<http://crowmarshgiffordprimary.com>

Visit the website, click on the 'curriculum' tab at the top and scroll down to find 'Mathematics - Ks2 calculation policy'.

For those who may not be familiar with the policy it is a breakdown of the different techniques used in maths and shows clearly how they evolve throughout the year groups – very useful in checking the sort of techniques used in schools today and coping with 'that's not how Mr Silvester told us to do it!' scenarios.

Our first topic in Science is forces. We will be learning about the importance of gravity, and different forms of friction including air and water resistance. After half term we will be looking at how the human body works.

ICT has been subject to many changes in the new curriculum so after we have looked at using Excel spread sheets we will be using Scratch software to write computer programs for the first time. This will allow the children to create a variety of games with moving graphics which should be jolly exciting for all concerned.

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History will be taught by Ms Dark this year. We will be learning about the Victorians, especially finding out about what life was like for an ordinary working child. We will be visiting a Victorian School Room at Reading museum on **Thursday 15th October** where all the children will experience what it was like to be at school during this period in a role play situation.

In Art we will study a variety of techniques focussing on the work of William Morris, a famous Victorian artist before moving on to look at sculpture techniques using a type of clay which can be oven baked.

In RE we will be looking at harvest, particularly how a failed harvest can be caused by many disasters which in turn can add to the initial problems. We will also take stock of the situation in Choko, our long established school charity, and reflect on their situation in some detail.

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education). Lessons will be developing speaking and listening skills through discussion, reflection and appreciation of other people's point of view. On **Wednesday 7th October**, we will be visiting Henley Accident and Emergency unit as part of IMPs (Injury Minimisation Programme), an excellent opportunity for the children to refresh and learn life-saving skills.

PE will take place on Tuesday during PPA and on Friday afternoon. For as long as the weather holds we will go outside so please ensure that the children have suitable clothing.

Homework: In order to prepare the children for secondary school, homework will be set each Friday to be handed in for the following Friday. Children will write details of set homework in their class organisers and complete it in the homework folders. **Please use these books to write any comments in if you wish, especially if your child is unable to complete any work for whatever reason or has encountered problems.** Homework is not expected to be onerous or too time consuming. Please remember it is the effort that is important.

Reading: The value of regular reading in the primary years cannot be stressed enough and although it can be very hard to find the time to do so, we really would encourage you to make every effort to do so where possible. It doesn't have to be a story book, any reading is good reading as long as the quality of the text is high.

If you are unable to sit with your child while they read, asking questions afterwards is an excellent practice. Reading with the intent to respond is a different skill to reading for pleasure alone and needs plenty of time to develop. **I have some key questions available for you to use at home if that would be of interest.**

As an incentive, if children read four times a week they will receive a house point.

In the event of a query please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am often available after school with the exception of staff meeting night which is on Wednesdays. If I haven't met you already, I look forward to speaking to you very soon about how your child has settled into their final year at Primary School.

Mr Andy Silvester