

Year 3 Newsletter - Classes 5 and 6 Spring 1 2016



Dear Families

We hope you had a restful Christmas break; we have yet another busy half term ahead of us. This term's topic is '**What's inside a seed?**' and this half term we'll be looking at the environment.

Staffing Team

There have been a few changes to our staffing team:

Class 5 - Miss Simpson will be teaching on Wednesday afternoons and Miss Mulligan on Thursday afternoons.

Class 6 - Mrs Brakes will be teaching on Thursday afternoons and Miss Simpson on Friday afternoons.

Curriculum

Our core text this half term is the Pixar film 'Wall-e'. We have started our unit of work around the film and the children are showing lots of enthusiasm within their writing already! If anyone has a copy of the film we could borrow, we would appreciate it as we only have one copy available in school. In science, we will be looking at the life and growth of plants, habitats and healthy eating. Our SEAL topic is 'Trying New Things' so if you or your child has any interesting hobbies or skills they would like to share then please let us know!

'I Can Maths'

In school we are continuing our Pizza Express reward trip for excellent reasoning in maths. Therefore it is really important that your child arrives on time to provide them enough time to complete their morning work so they are more likely to be entered into the prize draw!

PE

Class 5

Our PE this term will be gymnastics which will be on Friday mornings. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school, their hair is tied back and any earrings are removed before the session. If they are unable to remove their earrings, you will need to provide plasters to cover them. We would also appreciate it if PE kits are kept in school for the whole week so that if an opportunity arises for an additional PE slot, your child will be able to participate.

Class 6

PE this term will be swimming, which will be on Thursday afternoons. Please make sure that every Thursday your child brings their swimming kit. Boys must wear swimming trunks, **no baggy shorts allowed**, and girls must wear a one-piece swimming costume, **no bikinis allowed**. Also if your child has pierced ears please remove earrings at home or provide plasters for them to be covered. Finally, if you wish for your child to wear goggles, a letter must be provided.

Please remember - Earrings CANNOT be worn for PE and it would be much appreciated if these can be removed BEFORE your child comes to school and do make sure your child's name is in their PE kit!

Who and what is Investors in Pupils (IIP)?

Our school is working towards renewing our "Investors in Pupils" accreditation which we have held for the last 4 years. Why are we doing this? Well - pupils will...

- Have a better understanding of **how schools work**.
- Become **more involved** in their own education.
- Have a greater understanding of the **school budget** and what money is spent on.

- Understand the need to **respect** and **take care** of resources.
- Set **targets** to help them achieve, as a **team** and **individually**.
- Learn that we **all** have responsibilities within our roles and it is important that we fulfil these.
- Know that everyone has a part to play in school.

Each child sets their own half termly **personal IIP target**, as well as working towards a **whole class target**. Go on...test your children! Do they know theirs? How will they work to achieve their target?

Home Learning

In line with the school's policy the children will be expected to complete home learning tasks.

Reading

Reading Olympics will be counted from the first day of term. Our target is for every child to achieve the gold award. Please help your child by reading at home with them and recording their reads in their diary; reads should be recorded with the book title and page number. We do not backdate reads from a previous week, so please ensure that they are up to date each **Friday**.



Bronze award = 15 reads Silver award = 25 reads Gold award = 40 reads Ruby award = 70 reads
and **Diamond award = 100 reads.**

We aim to hear each child read individually at least once a week but children also read within a group during guided reading and during whole class literacy lessons. We will continue to reward the children daily and weekly for great home reading. We will also have a class **GOLD** Reading Award. Children who achieve **gold** will be able to participate in this half term's reading reward. Let's work to get everyone to **GOLD**!

Spellings

Please continue to practice spellings at home and where possible, put the words into context. The children will be given new spellings weekly to practice, and will be tested on these every Friday. Please try and spend ten minutes a day using the Look, Cover, and Write approach at home. We have noticed that those children who are practicing at home are applying learnt spelling rules more consistently within their writing.

Numeracy

This will be set by the child's Numeracy teacher once a week on a Friday, with one week to complete and return it. Children are handed their homework and it is their responsibility to ensure it is taken home. We do keep spares if they have been misplaced so please let us know as soon as possible!

Topic

Each fortnight the children will have a piece of home learning related to our project '**What's inside a seed?**'

If you have any questions or queries our team are always here to help. If you could offer any time in school to support learning in any way please come and talk to us: we'd be very grateful.

We would particularly love extra support with readers. So if you can spare an afternoon to hear children read – please come and see us!

The Year 3 Team

Katya Aleksic (Class 6 teacher)
James Payne (Class 5 teacher)
Ann Hopkin, Viv Bentley (Teaching Assistants)
Jo Mulligan, Rebecca Simpson, Debbie Brakes (PPA teachers)

