



Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a lovely summer break! The children have already made a fantastic start to Year 5 and 6, throwing themselves entirely into our persuasive writing units and clearly all having some prior experience in using persuasive devices outside of school!

Bones, Bodies and Bacteria

This term our topic will be Bones, Bodies and Bacteria. This is a science-based topic, where we will be learning all about the human body, including the skeleton, major organs, circulatory and respiratory systems. In addition to this, each class will be investigating the importance of bacteria and how they can be helpful as well as harmful. If there are any items which you believe would be beneficial to share with the classes or to contribute to our class displays, we would greatly appreciate it – anything from x-rays to reference books!

Literacy

In our English sessions this term, we have already begun exploring a variety of written persuasive letters, articles and adverts. Once complete, we will be moving on to writing discussions and persuasive pieces of written work, including opportunities for the children to take part in class debates around specific topics. Our end-product will be a persuasive leaflet where they will be tasked with persuading an audience how to keep their bodies safe.

Reading

When reading with your child, it would be really helpful to read these text types and to discuss the different features you notice together. We ask that children read to an adult every day for 5-10 minutes; the little-and-often approach will help pupils to apply the skills that they have learned in class. Our whole-class reader this term will be Pig-Heart Boy by Malorie Jackson which, in our class reading sessions, we will be exploring in detail and providing the children with activities to respond to the text.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Monday and tested each Friday. Please help your child to learn these spellings. There are many ways of practising these, such as Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check, where the child tries to memorise the shape of the word and the order of the letters from looking carefully and saying the word. They then cover the word up and attempt to write the word, finally checking if it is spelt correctly. Other ways your child might enjoy exploring these spellings is to draw images around the word to help them remember it, using different colours for each letter, making up a rhyme or phrase for each letter in the word, acronyms (e.g. *because* – **b**ig **e**lephants **c**an **a**lways **u**nderstand **s**mall **e**lephants), building the words using magnetic letters, or creating wordsearches or crosswords using the spelling words.

As part of their test, we also ask the children to learn the meaning of each word. Children will have an opportunity to complete activities such as these during our class spelling sessions, though they would benefit from support learning these at home as well.

Maths

In maths this term we will focus on the understanding of place value and on the development of mental calculation methods. We will be challenging pupils to secure the times table and division facts which are so vital to success in maths. Maths homework will be based around Mathematics and set every Wednesday - the login details can be found stuck *in the back of your child's reading diary*. The tasks set will be based on their learning during the week, and on occasion they may be set tasks on sheets. Homework should be completed by the following Wednesday.

RE

Our religious education this term *will be focusing on a Big Question: 'What does it mean if God is Holy and Loving?'* Within this unit, children will be exploring how Christians see God and how they view their relationship with Him, understanding how Christians value the church and cathedrals as a holy place to worship God, and how Christians worship God. By the end of the unit, children will be able to explain why Christians expect their God to be both holy and loving.

PSHE

Our unit this term is 'Being me in My World' where we will be identifying goals and challenges for this year. We will also be comparing our lives, needs and wants with children from different communities, as well as how our behaviour can directly affect the lives and well-being of others. Finally, we will end this term by learning about democracy and how having a voice benefits the school community.

French

This term *in French*, our topic will be focusing on vocabulary about 'Getting to Know You', where children will be learning about alphabet pronunciation, emotions, jobs and introducing ourselves.

Music

Up until Christmas, Year 5/6 will have a unique opportunity to experience African drumming sessions for an hour a week. These sessions will cover many aspects of the music curriculum as well as giving the children a unique opportunity to perform as an ensemble to both modern pop tunes and traditional African songs.

PE

This term, up until Thursday 7th October, Kite Class will be swimming each Thursday morning. The children will need a full swimsuit or swim shorts, a towel and a swimming hat. New rules in swimming sessions also encourage the use of goggles if your child struggles with opening their eyes under water.

PE this term will consist of football skills and basketball sessions. Children will continue to come to school dressed in their PE kits, the days of which can be found below. These are:

- Black shorts and black tracksuit bottoms for colder weather.
- A green PE t-shirt (available from the school office)
- Trainers
- A jumper or hoodie as the weather turns colder

PE sessions this term:

Kestrels – Monday and Thursday

Eagles – Monday and Thursday

Kites – Tuesday and Thursday

We are always happy to speak to you about your child. The best way to contact us remains the Upper Key Stage 2 email address - upperkeystagetwo@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk - or through the office.

We look forward to a very productive term!

Mr Guy, Miss Hill and Miss Rawcliffe