



Viaduct Federation of Schools



Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! After a super start to the academic year and a restful Christmas break, we are feeling motivated and ready to take on the challenges of a new term. This is a busy term with SATs week approaching after Easter. If you are wanting to know more about the SATs, please come along to the SATs information evening in March. We have another parents evening for you to come and find out how your child is progressing in March. Details for both of these events will be sent out nearer the time but in the meantime, if you have any questions, then don't hesitate to get in touch.

We are looking forward to a positive start to the new year.

The Year 6 Team.

Subject Overviews

English

During the first half term, we will be focusing on Planet Earth as the basis for our writing in English. The children will be exploring endangered animals by creating fun informal non-chronological reports suitable for a younger audience and also investigating and explaining how a variety of weird and wonderful organisms devour their prey.

In reading, we will study the dystopian novel 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick that links to our topic as the story is set in a future where the world has been reclaimed by the sea. It is a gripping text full of atmospheric tension and characterisation that provides a great stimulus for the children to practise their reading skills.

Maths

This term will initially focus on ratio, specifically looking at how to use ratio notation, how it links to fractions and looking at applying this to real life contexts such as scale drawings and recipes. Following this, we will look at algebra, covering how to form expressions, substitution and applying formulae. We will also look at solving equations, including one and two step.

Science

In line with our 'Planet Earth' topic, our Science Unit this half term will be 'Living Things and their Habitats', with a large focus on what different characteristics living things have and how to use these characteristics to classify them. Children will also continue to extend their questioning skills as we focus on the understanding of scientific enquiry, which teaches the principles of fair testing, scientific questioning and drawing conclusions.

Geography

Our topic for this half term is 'Planet Earth'. We explore time zones in different countries, research and record climate information in a graph and consider ways to be greener.

Computing

We are focusing on communication. We begin by exploring the QWERTY keyboard and developing the essential skill of touch typing, before learning about how to use web browsers efficiently and effectively when completing research.

DT

Inspired by sustainable energies, children design and create a wind turbine that can generate electricity. As part of the process, they will learn how to draw an annotated diagram of their design. Once the children have made their creations, they will be able to test whose designs generated the most energy!

PSHE

PSHE this half term will focus on how what can negatively impact on our mental health. We will explore the effects of loneliness, online relationships and peer pressure. In addition, we will explore how physical exercise can improve our mental health and how we can seek support early on.

French

In the first half term, will be talking about the sports and activities we like to do. We will also link this learning back to the topics of the weather and clothing, in order to write extended descriptions.

Music

Pupils will develop their ability to critically appraise music and identify what makes it effective for a given audience. They will listen to and respond to the music of Hans Zimmer and develop their instrumental and composition skills to compose a piece of music to depict planet earth.

Games / P.E

This term in Games, the children will be continuing to look at invasion/team sports as they study tag rugby and netball. During PE, they will work on their gymnastics skills and our new unit 'Create a Game', where the children will have the opportunity to design and create their own sport/game/activity.

Children should come into school wearing PE kit on the days they have PE (this should ideally be Bushfield PE kit or at least plain dark colours).

Homework

Spellings

The children will still receive new spellings on a Wednesday which will be uploaded to Spelling Shed for them to practise online (log-in details are in their log-books). In school, we will work on spelling activities in dedicated spelling lessons, as well as our English lessons.

Reading

We ask that children are listened to while they read for about 10 minutes a day. If children complete a book review (copies are available in school) and bring it to a teacher to be signed, they can be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon Fire tablet! Children also have a reading challenge in their log-books – completing this will mean they are entered into a competition to win Amazon vouchers! Finally, we have Jeff (our book vending machine)! Children can earn raffle tickets for good reading behaviour: reading regularly at home and signing this in their log-books, making good progress with reading in school or reading aloud in class. One lucky winner will be able to exchange their raffle ticket for a token to spend in the vending machine.

Maths

Weekly homework is set by each child's Maths teacher. In addition, they can log in to the website Times Table Rockstars to practise their times tables and there are weekly inter-class 'battles'. For additional arithmetic practise, children can access online practise papers that provide instant feedback. Follow this link: <https://mathsbot.com/primaryMenu>

Items to remember

- Practise TT Rockstars as regularly as possible
- Spellings - practise on Spelling Shed
- Reading – read for 10 minutes each day
- PE Kit – children should arrive to school in suitable kit for the time of year – label all clothing and water bottles

Useful websites

- www.linguafun.eu—for French
- www.ttrockstars.com—for times tables
- www.edshed.com—for spelling practice through games
- [www.mathsbot.com/primaryMenu](https://mathsbot.com/primaryMenu) - for arithmetic test practise

Your children have logins for some of these websites. If you don't have them, we can remind you of the details.

Upcoming Events

10th & 11th February –
Parents' Evening