

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer holiday may feel quite distant now, but we do hope that everyone had a nice break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year. We thought you might find it useful to have some information regarding routine, dates and events that will be taking place for the Autumn term. We will send out a letter like this once each term so that you are kept informed and up to date with what is happening in Year 6.

Teaching Staff:

Walt Disney World Class - Miss Lane

Acropolis Class – Ms Sanderson-Turner

Music – Mrs Ricketts

French – Madame Livingston

RE – Ms Aguillar

Maths Meetings, Movement Mile and HLTA - Miss Lau

Curriculum this term

The curriculum map online gives an overview of what we aim to cover during the whole academic year of 2022-2023. The information outlined below is specifically related to what we aim to cover this Autumn Term. All of our teaching is carefully planned to ensure that the children get the maximum enjoyment out of their lessons as well as developing their skills and making good progress. The ideas highlighted below are our aims for teaching, however these may change according to the needs of the children as the term progresses.

English

Autumn 1 – We will be following the Power of Reading. Our first text will be ‘The Adventures of Odysseus’ which is a book from another culture about an inspirational journey. It will link in with Rights Respecting, PSHE and our History topic this term.

Autumn 2 – Again, using Power of Reading texts, we will be studying a poetry text called ‘Dark Sky Park’ by Phillip Gross. We will be studying the poems as well as focusing on the non-fiction information that we will be exposed to about Tardigrades and the extremes of nature on our planet!

The children will be able to come and tell you all about the writing that they do in response to the texts. We would like the texts to remain a surprise and are therefore not giving too many details at this point. **Please do not let the children pre-read or know the texts that they will be studying** as a lot of the build-up in excitement of the texts rely on the fact that they are unknown.

Maths

Autumn Term- We will be following the topics outlined in the online curriculum map in line with Maths Mastery. There will be a continued focus on fluency of Times Tables and associated number facts so we ask that you encourage your children to learn and practice these at home. Please encourage your children to play Times Tables Rock Stars at least 4 times a week and keep practising the KIRFs which can be found on the Year 6 page of the website.

Science

Autumn 1 – Electricity. During this topic the children will look at the difference between series and parallel circuits. They will build on their previous knowledge to identify which circuit diagrams complete a circuit and which will not work. They will draw their own circuit diagrams in the process of solving various challenges that require using a variety of components such as buzzers, motors and switches. Time will be spent looking at a variety of switches in circuits and how a three way switch works. We will investigate how resistors affect the flow of electricity through a circuit.

Autumn 2 – Living things and their Habitats. Children will be given the opportunity to classify plants and animals according to the five main groups (Divisions) The levels are: Kingdom, Division, Order, Family, Genus and Species. They will use their knowledge to plan the layout of a garden centre and will have the opportunity to explain their choices. The children will have the opportunity to research the characteristics of animals and will create their own mystery creatures to demonstrate what they have learnt. We will find out about Carl Linnaeus and why he developed a standard system of classification before taking a closer look at micro-organisms and planning and carrying out a mould investigation.

DT

We will be studying mechanical systems in our DT lessons. The children will learn to develop a functional automata window display, to meet the requirements in a design brief. They will also explore and create cam, follower and axle mechanisms to mimic different movements.

History/Geography

This term in History the children will be investigating the story of the Trojan Horse and deciding whether it is based on historical fact, legend or classical myth and in Geography, they will be looking at how climate change is affecting the world.

Art

In Art, we will be exploring art with a message, looking at the works of Pablo Picasso and Käthe Kollwitz and through the mediums of graffiti, drawing, painting and sculpture, creating artworks with a message.

RE

Autumn 1 - 'Investigating how we live' . The key question is: 'How does what you eat affects what you choose to eat'. At the end of the unit children are expected to:

- Describe and explain some of the key beliefs about food in Hindu dharma, Judaism and Islam.
- Describe some ways in which beliefs about food are shown in the way people live.
- Make connections between the laws and practices about food in different religious worldviews, explaining their importance to different people.

Autumn 2 - The Christmas Story. This unit will look at the Christmas story in depth and encourage children to look for differences and similarities in the two accounts within the Bible. The children will investigate traditions associated with celebrating Christmas both in the United Kingdom and around the world.

Computing

Online Safety. This term the children will be looking closely at Online Safety and how they can stay safe on the internet. We will also be looking at the definition of cyberbullying and ensuring that the children know what to do if they are worried about anything they see online. Linking with our other curriculum topics, we will explore the concept that not all information on the internet is accurate or unbiased.

Music – Taught by Sarah Ricketts.

Singing and playing rounds in 4 parts with tuned percussion and ukulele; identifying pitch of known songs and notating music on to staves; singing and playing songs about Ancient Greece; learning Harvest and Christmas songs, improving diction, tuning and part-singing to make repertoire audience-ready.

PE

Our PE lessons this term will be split into three units, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Yoga and Dodgeball. Our indoor lessons will focus on Yoga and we will be using our outdoor sessions for OAA and Dodgeball.

PSHE & Citizenship

We will be focusing on health and wellbeing this term, specifically exploring the key question of: How can we keep healthy as we grow?

French – taught by Madame Livingstone.

The aim in Year 6 is to consolidate the children's knowledge of French and to prepare them for moving on to studying languages at Secondary School. They will continue to study various topics throughout the year as well as reinforcement of all key language covered so far.

How you can help:

Please check emails regularly.

Remember that we will update the google classroom regularly so please encourage your child to check for information regarding their homework there.

Read and sign your child's diary each week (on a Thursday so that they can bring it in, signed, on a Friday) so that we can see that you have seen any messages we may have written as well as any other communication.

If you would like to contact us please contact the school office to arrange an appointment via the following email: info@orleans.richmond.sch.uk

Finally.....

As with all school terms, this is a busy one and we really do appreciate your continued help and support.

We are looking forward to an interesting, inspiring, hard-working and successful Autumn Term and hope you are too!

The Year 6 Team,
Kate Sanderson-Turner & Zoe Lane