

# Term 3 Newsletter (Leopard Class)



Dear Year 6 Families,

I hope you all feel rested after a lovely Christmas break. Thank you for your kind and generous gifts and cards - I am very lucky to work with such an amazing group of children.

This newsletter aims to provide you with an overview of the main learning planned for this term, alongside other useful information. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or worries, do come and talk to me. I am available via e-mail, ([info@somerdaleet.org.uk](mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk)), or at the end of the school day.

## The Year Six team:

Jess Scott  
Class Teacher  
*Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri*

Jan Smith *Mon, Tues,*  
*Weds am* and Jenna Garcia  
*Weds pm, Thurs and Fri*  
Teaching Assistants

Sam O'Regan  
Deputy Head Teacher/PPA cover  
*Thursday*

## Enquiry Question this term: What similarities and differences do three different locations show?

This term children will use their knowledge of countries and continents of the world to understand and make comparisons between the physical and human geography of three different locations: the U.K, Spain and Canada.

If you have any books or artefacts, you would be happy to lend the class for this term, I would be very grateful. Make sure they are named. We will be geographers as we explore the physical form of the land and how this impacts human use of land. In week one, the children will pose their own questions relating to this and throughout the term we will explore and answer these.

### Learn Together

#### **Belief systems: Rationalism: Atheism, Agnosticism and Humanism**

Articulate the reasons cave dwellers made these paintings  
Identify science as a means of interacting with the modern world.  
Discuss the humanist belief that empirical evidence can be trusted above speculation. Define atheism, agnosticism, and humanism.  
Debate and discuss the importance of science for humanists, atheists and agnostics.  
Explore the difficulty of interacting with the world without the use of their senses. Discuss the effects of emotions on the decision-making process.

### Rights Respecting Schools

#### **Whole School Learning Together Focus:** Perseverance

**Focus Right: 14** You have the right to practise your religion, as long as you're not stopping people from enjoying their rights.  
**Focus Right: 30** You have the right to speak your own language and follow your family's way of life.  
**Focus Right: 36** You have the right to be protected safe from things which harm your development.

### English

Our focus book this term is *Holes* by Louis Sachar. We will analyse character, setting and plot and how the author shows this through language features. We will then write our own version of a conquering the monster tale.

Our main focus in writing will be learning year 6 grammar and advanced punctuation through fiction and then through non fiction writing. These skills include dialogue to convey character, using active and passive voice, using various tenses effectively, using complex sentences and showing cohesion throughout a paragraph and across paragraphs.

In guided reading sessions, children will continue to build comprehension and understanding. VIPERS are the skills we will be focussing on Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction. Explain, Retrieval and Summarising. Using our focus book and then additional non fiction texts which link to our science learning on evolution and adaptation.

## Maths

We will focus on ratio, algebra and decimals.

Step 1	Add or multiply?	Step 1	1-step function machines	Step 1	Place value within 1
Step 2	Use ratio language	Step 2	2-step function machines	Step 2	Place value - integers and decimals
Step 3	Introduction to the ratio symbol	Step 3	Form expressions	Step 3	Round decimals
Step 4	Ratio and fractions	Step 4	Substitution	Step 4	Add and subtract decimals
Step 5	Scale drawing	Step 5	Formulae	Step 5	Multiply by 10, 100 and 1,000
Step 6	Use scale factors	Step 6	Form equations	Step 6	Divide by 10, 100 and 1,000
Step 7	Similar shapes	Step 7	Solve 1-step equations	Step 7	Multiply decimals by integers
Step 8	Ratio problems	Step 8	Solve 2-step equations	Step 8	Divide decimals by integers

## Science

### Evolution and Inheritance

Children will recognise that living things have changed over time and the information we can discover from them.

Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Vocab: Fossils, adaption, evolution, characteristics, reproduction, genetics.

Coaches from Bristol Sport will be working on dance skills with the children. This will be on Wednesdays. On Fridays, Jess will be taking PE sessions where we will focus on fitness this term.

### PE kit to be worn in school

- Short sleeved free moving top
- Jumper (if weather appropriate)
- Shorts or leggings (no denim)
- Trainers suitable for running
- Hair tidied up
- No jewellery

## Design Technology

### Cooking and nutrition

This term children's learning will link to place knowledge in geography.

Children will learn how food is processed into ingredients that can be eaten or used in cooking. Also, that recipes reflect the places and cultures from which they come and that different food and drink contain different substances – nutrients, water and fibre – that are needed for health.

## Computing

This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard. In Lessons 2, 3, and 5, which follow the Use-Modify-Create model, learners experiment with variables in an existing project, then modify them, before they create their own project. In Lesson 4, learners focus on design. Finally, in Lesson 6, learners apply their knowledge of variables and design to improve their games in Scratch.

Children will continue to have music taught by professional musicians from Preludes on Fridays.

## Important Info for parents

### **Inset Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Please add this date to your diary.

### **Morning/Afternoon Routines**

In the mornings and afternoons, when waiting for the doors to open/your child to come out, please wait on the playground by the Year Six classroom.

The door opens at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am. Within this ten minute window, children will be completing a maths revision activity before the register at 8.50am. Pick-up is at 3.10pm.

Please call the office or e-mail [info@somerdaleet.org.uk](mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk) before 2pm if there are any changes to pick-ups at home time.

We will use our Google Drive folder, to upload class newsletters and other resources/information for parents. The link for this is on our class page on the website. It is:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17bO8nHA5\\_6d2dvpV7ysNQUPAyzPOTvQz?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17bO8nHA5_6d2dvpV7ysNQUPAyzPOTvQz?usp=sharing)

### **Homework Books**

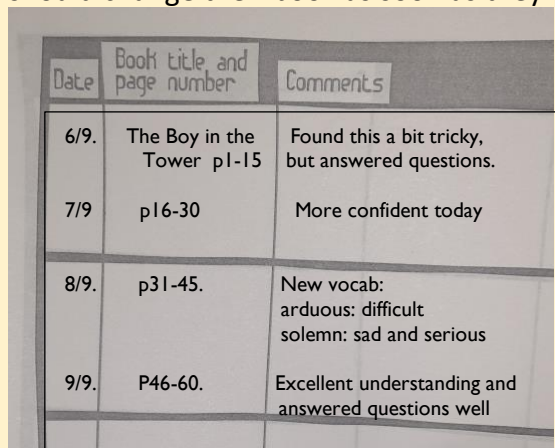
Before Christmas, children made an excellent start on their English and maths homework books. Inside the front cover of each book there is a list of work set which we will go through every Monday. This is to revise work covered in class, prepare them for SATs and their transition to secondary school.

### **Spelling Journals**

Before Christmas, your child should have brought home a copy of their spelling assessment of the statutory word list. Please keep this copy and work with your child on the spellings they are still yet to learn. Your child has a Spelling Journal which needs to be brought into school **every day**. Spellings will be checked and a new set given out every Monday. Children will have 12 spellings in total; six from the year 5/6 statutory list and six from the No Nonsense spelling patterns. Please help your child to practise at home by completing the 'Say, cover, write and check' worksheet and using the different strategies such as using rainbow colours for vowels or pyramid words shown on the termly sheet in their spelling books.

### **Reading**

Your child has chosen a banded reading book which needs to be brought into school every day with their Reading Record. It is essential for your child's learning to hear them read regularly at home. Your child should change their book as soon as they have completed it.



Date	Book title and page number	Comments
6/9.	The Boy in the Tower p1-15	Found this a bit tricky, but answered questions.
7/9	p16-30	More confident today
8/9.	p31-45.	New vocab: arduous: difficult solemn: sad and serious
9/9.	P46-60.	Excellent understanding and answered questions well

Children have been shown how to record the date, pages read and comments including new vocabulary learnt and definitions in their Reading Record. Please check these and then sign in the comments box. It is ideal for your child to read four or more times a week for around 20 minutes.

Whilst your child reads aloud to you, it is important to ask them questions to check their understanding. E.g. How do the descriptions of ..... show that they are ..... How can you tell that..... What impression of ..... do you get from these paragraphs? Why did the character behave like that?

After visiting the Library on Thursdays, children will also choose a book to read for pleasure which you can enjoy

with them for one week

### **Times tables**

Many of you will be familiar with Times Table Rockstars which the children will be continuing to use in school. If you can practise this at home, it will really help with the speed of your child's mental recall. Their progress will be celebrated when children are practicing their times tables at school. Children have their log in details in their reading record book.

A couple of requests...

- Please talk to your child before school each morning about lunch choices, so that they know which option they will choose when they come to school.
- Please bring a named water bottle into school – filled with plain water only.
- Please name all clothes and packed lunch boxes.
- This year your child need to bring their reading record, reading book and spelling journal into school everyday.