



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 6 Termly Newsletter: Autumn 2023

Welcome to Year 6. We hope that you have had a fantastic summer and are looking forward to the excitement of this momentous year. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about what your children will be learning this term. If we need to share further information with you, we will use Study Bugs so please make sure you download the app. We will continue to keep our Google Classrooms updated with any messages and other important dates can also be found easily by going to www.pegasusacademytrust.org and clicking on the 'Events' tab.

English: We will be working hard in English to develop the children's reading and writing. During the first half of this term, the emphasis will be on building on all of the children's learning from previous years, but looking to become more adventurous with language, punctuation and sentence structures. After reading the fantastic Malorie Blackman book, 'Cloudbusting', which is written entirely in verse, we will use a visual text—a short animation called 'Ruin' - to write a diary entry. Following on from that, we will be reading 'Suffragette: Battle for Equality' by David Roberts, which inspires and challenges the children as they learn about the fight for women's right to vote. In the second half-term, the areas of study link to our Thematic study of Ancient Egypt, as we read and write about mummification and Cleopatra: the last pharaoh of Egypt. Through our work with these texts, the children will develop their ability to write in a range of genres including diary writing, descriptive writing, non-fiction, dialogue and narrative. We will also be developing the children's understanding of spelling and grammar rules, allowing them to use these more accurately.

Maths: At the end of this year, the children will be sitting an arithmetic paper and two reasoning papers. Therefore, we will be separating our maths learning into those two areas with an emphasis on encouraging the children to explain their thinking and demonstrate their methods. In arithmetic this term, we will be re-capping methods for the 4 operations as well as introducing new methods, such as long division. In our maths reasoning learning this half term, we will be focusing on place value, rounding and negative numbers. Next half term, our focus will be on decimals, fractions and percentages, and how to use this knowledge to solve problems set in a real-world context that challenge the children's understanding.

Science: Our science topics for this term are 'Evolution and Inheritance' and 'Animals including Humans'. During our study of 'Evolution and Inheritance', we will be looking at how and why animals inherit certain traits versus traits that are learnt. We will also be investigating how various animals have adapted to their specific habitats and studying Darwin's theory of evolution. As part of our studies surrounding 'Animals inc. Humans', we will learn about the function of the heart, the circulatory system and the blood and blood vessels as well as developing an understanding of how water and nutrients are transported round the body. We will also carry out an investigation into the effect of exercise on the heart.

Thematic: This term our theme is: Walk like an Egyptian. In geography, we will be learning about the lines of longitude and latitude as well as studying the impact of the River Nile and the effect of dams. In history, we will be learning about mummification and the legendary female ruler of Egypt, Cleopatra. In Art and D&T, we will be learning about using texture for effect as well as studying the Ancient Egyptian's irrigation tool, the shaduf, and making one for ourselves. The British Museum has a wonderful collection of Ancient Egyptian artefacts; you might wish to visit the museum with your child during the next few months.

For parents: Hopefully you have already considered your **secondary school applications**. We recommend visiting as many schools as possible for their open evenings. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any other questions or if you need any help with completing the form. This year, as part of our curriculum convergence, we are aiming to take the children on the same trips as all the other children across the Trust. More details will follow in due course.

What you can do to help: Please make sure that your child reads every night and that you sign their reading diary at the end of the week. Regular reading is proven to improve children's learning. Ask them questions about what they've read to check their understanding. Ask them what they think the words mean or what the character might be thinking or feeling. There is no such thing as a night with 'no homework': every night is reading night! Lists of spelling words for each year group are available and children are expected to know these by the end of the year. Times tables need constant revision - children should know these facts instantly, in mixed order, and know the corresponding division fact. 'Mathletics' is our on-line maths homework. Children are expected to earn 1000 points each week but are welcome to earn more points! 'Live' Mathletics is particularly good for developing mental maths skills. Additionally, helping your child to complete their thematic homework is a wonderful way of spending time with them whilst supporting their learning.

The Year 6 Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org