



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 6 Termly Newsletter: Autumn 2020

Welcome to Year 6. We hope that you have had a fantastic summer despite the strange times we currently live in, and we look forward to having a wonderful year working together. 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 information with you, we will use the 'text to parents' service, so please make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number for you. Important dates are to be found on the reverse of this letter so we recommend you stick it on your fridge. Important dates can also be found easily by going to www.pegasusacademytrust.org and clicking on the 'Events' tab at the top of the page.

English: We will be working hard in English to develop the children's reading and writing. Starting with the text 'Here We Go' by Oliver Jeffers, we will encourage the children to discuss and understand their emotional response to the current world situation and the many changes that they may have had to face. The children will then have the opportunity to let their imaginations soar when we study the wonderful book 'Varmints' by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. 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 in their work.

Maths: As part of the SATs exams which will be undertaken at the end of Year 6, 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 methodology. 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 reasoning learning this half term, we will be focusing on place value, rounding and negative numbers. Next half term, we will begin by focusing on decimals, fractions and percentages. This learning will be reinforced when we end the term by looking at measurements

Science: Our science topic for this term is 'Evolution and Inheritance'. During our studies, 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.

Thematic: This term our theme is 'Walk Like An Egyptian'. In geography, we will be learning about the location, physical features and climate of Egypt with a focus on rivers. In history, we will be learning about the politics of Ancient Egypt, including studying the Pharaohs and the Egyptian Gods. In Design and Technology, we will be designing and building shadufs (Egyptian irrigation tools) using woodwork skills. We will also be looking at Egyptian death rituals including studying the process of mummification and the use of Canopic jars.

Trips and events: Due to the current global situation, trips and visitors into schools will not occur in the autumn term. This decision is under constant review.

What you can do to help: Please make sure that your child reads every night and 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. 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. They can go onto Times Tables Rockstars to support this learning. 'Mathletics' is our on-line maths homework. Children are expected to earn 1000 points (a bronze certificate) 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