



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 6 Termly Newsletter: Autumn 2021

Welcome to Year 6. We hope that you have had a fantastic summer and 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 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. During the first half of this term, we will be looking at texts and poetry based around the themes of immigration and refugees. The children will have the opportunity to let their imaginations soar when we study the wonderful picture book 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. We will then go on to read, respond to and perform a selection of poems from Michael Rosen's text on Migration, 'On The Move'. During the second half of the term, we will study the text 'Varmints' by Helen Ward & Marc Craste and we will be learning about the fight for women's right to vote through the text 'Suffragette, the Battle for Equality' by David Roberts. 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: 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 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, our focus will be on decimals, fractions and percentages, and how to use this knowledge to solve reasoning problems.

Science: Our science topics for this term are 'Evolution and Inheritance' and 'Animals inc. 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 last pharaoh, 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.

Trips and events: Currently, we have no trips booked for Autumn term. However, the Year 6 team are working hard to book a boat trip on the River Thames for the second half of the Autumn term. During this trip, we would study the bridges and landmarks along the riverside. We will keep you posted regarding this proposed trip.

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. 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