



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 6 Termly Newsletter: Spring 2023

Happy New Year! We hope that you have had a wonderful, relaxing break and that the children are refreshed and ready to recommence their learning. 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 email or use the 'text to parents' service, so please make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number and email address for you.

English: This half term, the children will be studying the 'The Red Pyramid' by Rick Riordan (author of the 'Percy Jackson' series). We have begun by learning about the ownership debate surrounding the Rosetta Stone, which features in the book, and writing persuasive letters about what we believe should happen to it. This gives the children the opportunity to develop and question their understanding of the West's colonial legacy, as we examine a number of very current news articles about countries requesting the return of their artefacts from European and American museums. Following that, the children will demonstrate their ability to write engaging narratives where they will continue the story at a dramatic moment using both direct and reported speech. They will develop characterisation by giving clues about their characters' personalities, and create detailed descriptions. Much of the focus is now building a portfolio of writing for the children so that they can demonstrate all the necessary writing skills required to meet the end of Year 6 expected standard. During the second Spring half term, we will be using a reimagining of 'The Three Little Pigs' as a source for non-fiction writing. Then, the children will study 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare; learning about one of the most significant writers in history whilst also retelling some of the iconic events and ideas from the play.

Maths: We will be continuing to separate our maths learning into arithmetic and maths mastery with an emphasis on encouraging the children to explain their thinking and demonstrate their methodology. In arithmetic this term, we will be developing the children's ability to use their knowledge of number effectively and efficiently with a focus on calculations involving decimals, fractions and percentages. In our maths mastery learning this half term, we will begin by focusing on angles in triangles and quadrilaterals as well as finding unknown angles. This will involve using their knowledge of shape to solve word problems. We will then go on to a study of circles during which we will investigate the different technical names for parts of the circle.

Science: During the first half of the Spring term, we will be studying 'Living things and their habitats'. This includes the study of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi, where we will carry out experiments to prove their existence as living things. Further to that, the children will use classification keys to identify different types of the same species. Our science topic for the second spring half term will be 'Electricity', during which we will be studying the use and names of the component parts of circuits as well as learning how to construct electrical circuits using cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.

Thematic: This term we complete our 'Walk Like an Egyptian' theme, before starting 'Greece is the Word' in the second half of the term. To finish our learning about Ancient Egypt, the children will be making 3D working models of the 'shaduf' - an Ancient Egyptian irrigation tool. The children will also be putting their DT skills to use to recreate a funerary mask, inspired by Tutankhamun. After the break, we will be looking at city states and how they were run by different types of government as well as studying the origin of the marathon. We will also be looking at Greek myths and representing them in a variety of ways including using levers. We do hope that you will join us on Museum Day to have a look at the work that the children have completed on our theme so far.

Trips and events: All the year 6 children have the opportunity to see the Rosetta Stone in person having studied it in our literacy lessons, and we also have a talk on hieroglyphics at the British Museum as well. Luckily, we will be able to view many of the things studied in our thematic lessons, and some Ancient Greek artefacts ahead of our new topic. Later this term, we will also be visiting the National Gallery to take part in a workshop on myths and legends portrayed in the artworks there, which is an excellent enrichment opportunity for the children.

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, 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! 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 (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 children to complete their thematic homework is a wonderful way of spending time with your child whilst supporting their learning.

The Year 6 Team

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

Dates for your diary

Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Monday 16th January	Clydesdale and Suffolk class trip to the British Museum
Wednesday 18th January	Shire and Oak class trip to the British Museum
Monday 23rd January	Clydesdale, Shire and Suffolk visited by Transport for London for a workshop
Friday 10th February	Museum Day
Monday 20th February	Oak visited by Transport for London for a workshop
Wednesday 22nd February	Clydesdale, Shire and Suffolk class trip to the National Gallery
Friday 24th February	Oak class trip to the National Gallery

Ecclesbourne Primary School

Monday 16th January	Jupiter and Mars visited by Transport for London for a workshop
Monday 23rd January	Jupiter and Mars class trip to the British Museum
Friday 10th February	Museum Day
Friday 24th February	Jupiter and Mars class trip to the National Gallery

Cypress Upper School

Wednesday 25th January	Larch and Oak class trip to the British Museum
Monday 30th January	Beech class trip to the British Museum
Friday 10th February	Museum Day
Monday 20th February	Beach, Larch and Oak class trip to the National Gallery
Wednesday 22nd February	Beach, Larch and Oak visited by Transport for London for a workshop