

# PEGASUS ACADEMY TRUST WHJUN

## Year 6 Spring Newsletter

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. There are still some places available for the Year 6 residential. Please contact the school office or one of the Year 6 teachers if you would like to find out more.

### English

This half term, the children will be studying the 'The Red Pyramid' by Rick Riordan (author of the 'Percy Jackson' series). We have started 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 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. During the second Spring half term, 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. They will be creating their own monologues using Shakespearean language.

### 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 words 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 continuing our studies about 'Animals including Humans', including learning about blood and how and why it travels around the body. Children will link this learning to their investigations of the heart.

The second topic 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.

## 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 putting their Art & DT skills to use to recreate a funerary mask, inspired by Tutankhamun's solid gold death mask.

After the break, we will be drawing using one-point perspective and varying texture and tone. We will also be looking at Greek myths and key historical events, such as the battle of Marathon. 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!

## Ways you can support at home:

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. Children are also assigned homework on Spelling shed which should be completed. Additionally, helping your children to complete their thematic homework is a wonderful way of spending time with your child whilst supporting their learning.

## Year 6 Residential

We are getting closer and closer to the Year 6 residential.

Please ensure you have filled in a medical form and returned to your class teacher. A parent meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February with information on the trip. A link will be sent out next week to join the online meeting.

## Key links:

Spelling Shed:

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-us>

Mathletics:

<https://login.mathletics.com/>

Timetables

Rocksstars:<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

## Dates for your diary:

### February

**Tuesday 3rd February** - Clydesdale and Suffolk trip to British Museum

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** - Shire and Oak trip to British Museum

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** - Museum Day

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 6 Cuffley parent meeting

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** - Last day

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - Back to school

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** - Shakespeare Workshop

### March

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - World Book Day

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - Parents' evening

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** - Parents' evening

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March - 18<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 6 residential to Cuffley