

## Scafell Spring Newsletter 2018

Welcome back to the New Year and a new term. I hope you've had an enjoyable time.

### **Our curriculum this term involves:**

**Maths:** This term we continue to develop skills to solve calculations and multi-step problems in a range of contexts. Although our multiplication knowledge is improving, we will continue developing our speed and accuracy; and use known facts to help us solve problems. Additionally, we will be focusing on fractions including: comparing and ordering; finding equivalents; and converting improper fractions to proper fractions. Year 5 will develop the skills to add and subtract fractions, whilst Year 6 will move on to multiplying and dividing fractions. This unit of work also covers the relationship between decimals and percentages.

We will continue our learning of area and perimeter and begin to look further into measurement including using, reading, writing and converting between different units of measure; also covering imperial units. We will then move on to angle: to measure angles using protractors and identify the value of missing angles in different polygons. Year 6 will learn more about vocabulary and properties related to circles.

**English:** Our writing this term will focus on news reports and debates; for and against a local or global issue. The children will use their computing and research skills to formulate ideas and create a strong, fair and balanced argument and, with the help of eco-team, be able to question and debate this argument with their classmates. The children will also develop their skills of reporting; distinguishing between fact and fiction, using quotations and creating their own newspaper reports. We will also spend time writing a recount about our fantastic trip to Tullie House Egyptian Museum in February. Our spellings this term will continue to focus on the Year 5/6 word list and we will continue to have two Guided Reading sessions that develop skills in inference, comprehension and deduction. Our work also includes understanding sentence grammar, using dictionaries and thesauruses effectively and further learning regarding word classes and punctuation.

**Science:** Electricity. This halfterm we will be exploring electricity, and developing our scientific skills through practical investigations. We will be learning about circuits and conductors and (linking with our English writing unit) how to be a more eco-friendly world through energy saving ideas. After half term, we will be focusing on Living Things and their Habitats, which links perfectly with our Geography and Art topics.

**Topic:** Our Ancient Egypt topic (History) will continue until halfterm, after which we begin Mountains and Rivers topic (Geography). This will include developing our understanding of the water cycle, coasts and rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, climate zones and biomes.

**PE:** On Mondays we will be starting working on a dance inspired by our Egyptian topic. The children will also be developing their skills in Invasion Games, including lacrosse and rounders, with Mrs Craggs every Thursday afternoon as usual. Please can the children have long tracksuit bottoms and warm fleeces or jumpers for Mrs Craggs Games outside and indoor PE kit on Mondays.

**Computing:** This term we will be continuing to develop our skills to search safely and effectively online, check accuracy of information and understand the basics of programs such as 'Powerpoint' and 'Word'. Additionally, we will be learning the skills of programming and debugging using the program 'Scratch'.

**Music:** This term we will focus on an exciting topic of Songwriting and Composition. The children will also continue to take part in a singing assembly every Wednesday.

**RE:** We will be exploring this terms value of Thankfulness and learning about what it means to be a Muslim.

**French:** Learning 'All About Moi', stories and French culture; developing our language skills and knowledge.

**Design Technology:** This term we will be researching, designing and making a home for a pet or wild animal. We will also be using a variety of artistic design skills to create animal sculptures.

**PSHE:** SEAL units - Exploring 'New Beginnings' and 'Going for Goals'. We will also be developing our understanding of our Christian value; Thankfulness.

**Forest Schools:** We will also be learning a variety of skills in our woodland area through our activities; Exploring life in the forest - Bugs and Beasts.

## **Equipment**

Although the school is well supplied, we do try and encourage children to have and look after their own pencil case containing essential items: pencils, writing pens, crayons, rubbers and a sharpener. We will be using 180° protractors in maths and would suggest that our year 6 pupils have their own ready to use when they transfer to high school. Please can you also encourage your child to have a named water bottle in school to use during lesson time, as well as at break. Hydration is important with all the thinking going on in the classroom!

## **Homework**

This term, as usual, the children will keep their homework diary, a spelling book, and a homework folder. Please try to discourage your child from doodling on the front of their books/files, as this will spoil the overall presentation of their lovely hard work!

Homework will be set every week (same as last term) and it is each child's responsibility to record their homework task in this book and be organised with their homework. A Maths task will be set every week (either a task or MyMaths) plus one other activity. This might include English, Topic or Art. Homework will be set on Fridays and should be completed and handed in by the following Friday.

**MyMaths:** These tasks will be set regularly and children will be given the opportunity to complete these tasks in school at lunchtimes if internet access is problematic. Please let Miss Dawson know if your child is unable to access a computer at home.

**Spelling lessons:** Each Thursday the children will be taught strategies to support spellings and are given a list of 10 to learn. These will be tested the following Thursday by Mrs Farraday. Team points are given for high scores.

**Reading:** Reading is important and part of Scaffell's weekly homework task. Everyone should try to read regularly, most evenings and at the weekend where possible; keeping a note of all reading (either independent or with someone) in reading records. This helps us to monitor reading and talk to the children about their reading routines and interests. Some children love to read independently, however others may still need some extra support and discussion when reading, to support their understanding and learning. Children, as well as parents, can write notes about reading in reading records. Team points are now given for children who read 4x or more a week.

## **SATs Boosters**

Year 6 are now beginning their preparation for the SATs during the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Your child will attend a 45minutes maths booster session in a small group with Mrs Farraday every Wednesday afternoon. The focus of the sessions will be supporting the work done in maths that week; but also revising and developing key skills and practice SATs questions. We will ensure that the children are not missing the same aspects of learning each week so that they continue to experience a broad and balanced curriculum. More information on SATs will follow soon.

## **Uniform**

Please can all uniform including PE kits be clearly named to avoid issues. Jewelry, make-up and nail polish are not permitted on school days. Although stud earrings are allowed to be worn, they must be removed for all physical activities to ensure the child's safety. Long hair should be tied up as much as possible (always in PE). All children should wear sensible school shoes and have a coat in school every day. Girls can choose to wear tights or long socks to keep their legs warm; as in previous years, no leggings please.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come to talk to me; as always I am more than happy to help.

**With my best wishes,**

***Miss Dawson***