

Year 6 Mulberry Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a really enjoyable Christmas break and are ready to support your child with crucial learning during this Spring Term. Dates for your diary: Our **Class Assembly** will be on the 25th January at 2.45 pm. **Parents Evening** will be Wednesday 8th February and Thursday 9th February this half term.

Topics this term:

English: Writing: We will be learning how to write in different styles i.e. letters, diaries, posters and stories. We will continue to draft, edit and redraft our work before publishing.

Reading: In reading we are looking at books of different types and studying how to make deductions from text. This involves reading beyond what is simply written in black and white - for instance finding out why a character in a book behaved as they did rather than just commenting on the action itself. To help your child in the reading SAT there are some things you can do.

- Hear your child read as often as possible- no matter how fluent a reader they are.
- Talk about the text with them. What is happening and **why?**
- Help your child make meaningful comments giving their opinion of the piece they've just read. It's perfectly acceptable to say they don't like it if they give plausible and justified reasons.
- Do skimming and scanning exercises. Choose 2 pages and make up a couple of questions then encourage your child to scan through looking for key words that might help find the answer.

Spelling and Grammar: The children will also be tested on their spelling and grammar in a separate paper. Please support your child by ensuring that they learn their weekly spellings. Grammar can be supported by using revision guides- some of the areas will include passive and active sentences, modal verbs, using colons and hyphens correctly.

Maths: Problem solving - including money problems ; Angles (including using a protractor to construct and measure angles) ; Properties of shapes; Using %, decimals and fractions; Area and perimeter; Measures - including reading scales; Written calculations involving the four functions and decimals

Please support your child by ensuring that they complete maths homework - there will be increasing amounts this term. You can also help by asking your child to work out time and money problems - eg: If a television programme starts at this time and ends at this time, how long does it last? If I send you to the shops to buy 3 pineapples at £2.99 each, how much change will you get from £20? What weight are these scales showing?

Geography: Earthquakes and Volcanoes

History: Stone Age

Science: Electricity, Living things and their Habitats

Homework

Children will be given homework three times a week but they will be expected to revise every evening. In addition to this there will be a weekly spelling test and an arithmetic test.

Monday due in Thursday

Wednesday due in Tuesday.

Friday (Maths) due in Tuesday.

Homework Projects

Each term there will be a 'Home Learning Project' to complete with some of the tasks linked to the current topic. There will be 10 cross curricular activities and children will have the challenge of completing the 10 activities by the end of the term.

IMPORTANT SATS INFORMATION—End of Key stage 2 Tests

The Statutory Assessment Tests will be this Monday 8th May– Thursday 11th May 2017. The children are preparing for them by working hard and revising. The tests focus on Maths, Reading and Writing Spelling and Grammar. Please help your child prepare for the tests by supporting them with revision and checking that they have completed their homework. This will help to ensure that they achieve the best results that they can.

Spelling and Grammar Test: (GPS)

The GPS tests comprise of two tests. Paper 1 is a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test lasting 45 minutes with 50 marks available. Paper 2 comprises of a 20-word spelling test lasting approximately 15 minutes.

Maths Test: Component	Description	Marks	Time
Paper 1	Arithmetic (operations)	40	30 minutes
Paper 2	Mathematical Reasoning	35	40 minutes
Paper 3	Mathematical Reasoning	35	40 minutes

Reading Test: The reading test will be a single one hour paper (including reading time) with questions based on a selection of texts of 1800-2300 words with 50 marks (1-3 mark questions).

Question types include multiple choice; ranking/order; matching; labelling; find and copy; short response, and open-ended response.

The questions areas will include: Give/explain the meaning of words in content ; Retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non fiction; Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph; Make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text; Predict what might happen from details stated and implied; Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole; Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases; Make comparisons within the text.

Writing Assessment: For the final SATs level, the children's books are scrutinised and their work is moderated. They are getting used to redrafting their work – editing and evaluating to come up with a published/finished version of their work. There are many elements that need to be included in their writing to show that they are 'Working Towards' or 'Working At' age related expectations. Including use of more sophisticated vocabulary, conjunctions, a range of Year 6 punctuation.

Uniform

The school uniform consists of a light blue polo shirt, a West Hill sweatshirt, black or grey trousers or skirt and dark shoes. No trainers are permitted.

P.E. Kit

Year 6 need to bring PE kit to school on Mondays and take home on Fridays each week .

PE sessions usually Mondays and Wednesdays.



This term involves hard work from everybody - parents, teachers and most importantly, children. They need to give **maximum effort** up until the SAT's. For the time being those of you with the internet should encourage children to visit the excellent revision site provided by the BBC. The address is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/revision>. WH Smith and Waterstones also sell many revision materials for the Key stage 2 SAT tests that will be beneficial for you to do with your child.

Mrs Caraccio