

Toftwood Junior School Information for Parents/Carers



Autumn 2
2018

Year Six

Year 6

English

Our writing this half term will be based on the stories of Harry Potter. We will be learning to write a newspaper report using direct and indirect speech. We will write a formal letter of complaint using formal language. A descriptive piece of writing will be produced to extend our vocabulary and sentence structure. When writing the children will be encouraged to correct their work independently first to improve it and become an excellent learner. Encourage your child to research these characters so they can inform their writing.

Spelling

The children will continue to learn the spelling patterns for the Year 5 and 6 spelling list. A copy of these will be sent home. The patterns we are learning this half term are homophones. We will also be exploring words that end in "cious" or "tious".

It is vital that your child practises these as often as possible until they can spell them correctly in their independent writing. Get your child to put them into a written sentence at home to ensure they have a secure understanding of each word and how to spell it.

Reading

We will be doing whole class reading in class as well as individual reading. Please continue to read regularly with your child at home and please ensure that they bring their Accelerated reading book to school. The library is available for changing books before school 8.30 - 9.00 and after school 3.25 - 4.00. Please send your child in through the Year 3 door, and children only please.

When reading with your child, the focus should not only be on how well (fluently) they can read but also on how they can understand the book they have read. In Key Stage 2 (junior age) we need to ensure they can answer questions about the text and, answer questions such as 'Why do you think that happened?' 'What did the author mean by that phrase?' Again, useful questions to ask your child will be added to the website this half term so please do use these with your child to support their reading progress.

Please ensure your child's reading record is in school on Monday. Children will be able to change their book before and after school to maximise learning time in lessons.

Mathematics

We will be focusing on a wide range of mathematical skills this half term, and it is vital the children can do these quickly and confidently, so please do practise at home too. We will focus on these areas:

- Using common factors to simplify fractions; using common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination.
- Comparing and ordering fractions, including fractions > 1 .
- Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions.
- Multiplying simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form.
- Dividing proper fractions by whole numbers.
- Finding fractions of amounts
- Describing positions on the full coordinate grid (all four quadrants).
- Drawing and translating simple shapes on the coordinate plane, and reflecting them in the axes.

If your maths skills are a little rusty in these areas and you want to support your child at home, please do ask. We will be having a session for parents soon and will have some information to share to help you support your child in Year 6, which will also be on the website.

Science

This half term we will be looking at the concept of light. We will be recognising that light appears to travel in straight lines. We will use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they emit or reflect light into the eye. The children will investigate how we see things and learn that it is because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes. Using the idea that light travels in straight lines they will be able to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Any additional work on this at home will help develop their scientific understanding, so please do let us know of any additional research or investigations your child carries out at home.

History

We will continue to learn about our topic - *The Ancient Greeks*. We will discover the significance of temples to the *Ancient Greeks* and write a piece of information about the temples. We will study how the *Greek empire* was spread

by Alexander the Great and explore trading in the Ancient Greek world and use an atlas to locate trading countries. We will learn about the development of democracy from its creation in Ancient Greece.

Art and Design

In art, the children will be looking at and recreating Greek pots. We will begin by examining traditional Greek pots, particularly the story that is told through illustrations. We will then design our own Greek pottery which will be created by using clay.

Design and Technology

In D&T, we will design, build and evaluate our own mini Greek temples by using a variety of materials in a traditional style. Any materials that you may have at home, such as cardboard, would be gratefully received.

PE

In P.E. this half term, we will be taking part in Real P.E, which promotes the learning of basic skills and ensures P.E is fun, exciting and challenging. Each half term there will be some challenges. This will be outside. Ask your child what challenge they are working on and help them practice it at home.

Our second unit is gymnastics where we will be developing our skills in balancing, climbing, swinging, rolling, running, jumping and sequencing.

PE days for each class:

Miss Gilfillan	Monday and Tuesday
Mrs Hughes	Tuesday and Thursday
Mrs Williams	Wednesday and Friday

Please ensure your child brings their PE kit in on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday to be washed if required. Ear rings should be removed for PE.

RE

In R.E. this half term we are exploring the theme of 'Suffering and Happiness' and asking the questions - Can desire cause suffering?

How do you overcome evil and promote goodness? Children will develop their understanding of Buddhism. The children will also consider viewpoints of others. You may wish to discuss this learning with your child at home and see if they can share their own thoughts and ideas.

PSHE and PATHS

This half term we will be focusing on conflict and resolution within the class. We will recognise and respond appropriately to a wider range of feelings in others. We will also be focusing on how to discuss and express our feelings in an appropriate manner.

Music

This half term, we will focus on Jazz. All the learning is focused around two tunes: Bacharach Anorak and Meet The Blues. The children will learn about the tunes then use instruments to perform these tunes.

MFL

This half term we will be recapping on our knowledge from lower school with a focus on describing different people and their characteristics.

If your Spanish knowledge enables you to support with this at home, please do work on this. We will send home some information for parents this half term with key words and phrases.

Computing

We will develop our understanding of algorithms and logical reasoning to explain what will happen in a program. We will also explore de-bugging algorithms. We will continue to use technology for online research.

We use a child friendly search engine called 'Kiddle' which filters content to be suitable for the children. We also have software that will highlight any unsuitable search items and can track this to each child's individual log in.

Online safety tips - Please share these with your child if they are accessing the internet

- Always ask a grown up before you use the internet
- Don't tell strangers where you live, your phone number or where you go to school. Only your friends and family need to know this.

Website

If you have a device connected to the internet, you may wish to visit our website. The address is: www.toftwood.norfolk.sch.uk

Home Learning

We continue to ask that you support your child and their learning at home. We also appreciate that children have other interests and hobbies outside of school and family time is precious. To support your child, we will have our core set of homework for all children on MyMaths, Rock Star Times tables, spellings and reading, and there will be optional creative home learning for those children that wish to complete it.

MyMaths

There is an expectation that children will complete set homework tasks within the allocated time given. The date MyMaths work is due is shared on the MyMaths site.

We will also have other homework tasks for Year 6 to ensure we fill in any gaps in the children's knowledge and we also prepare them for the Year 6 expectations and in turn for high school. Further information will follow.

Reading

To support your child with becoming a confident reader, we would like each child to read to an adult at least three times every week. Please also ensure you are asking questions to develop your child's skills and abilities as a reader. Please write a note in your child's reading record, which will be checked by their teacher every Monday for the previous week. Please ensure reading records are in school every day. Children who have read at home will be awarded Dojo points: one point for reading three times, two points for reading five times and three points for reading seven times.

Spellings

Each child has a list of spellings to practise at home. Please see if they can spell them consistently without support and to move their learning further forward see if they can use each word in a written sentence. Being able to use the spellings in their work is very important.

Additional Optional Home Learning

There will also be optional extra homework that can be completed at any point each half term. These must be handed in by Monday 17th December for this half term. Children will be awarded dojo points for any additional home learning they complete, but please remember it is optional!

Suggestions include:

- Study Greek buildings in preparation for building your own Greek temple.

- Research information on Buddhism and present this in a creative way.

If you have any further questions or would like more information about ways to help your child, please see their class teacher.