

Year 6 Newsletter



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Introduction

Welcome to Term 1, 2013. We are off to a great start to the academic year and are very much looking forward to the learning journey ahead. The children are all settling well into their new classes and have adapted to being Primary School role models.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the welcome meeting last week we hope that you found the information presented helpful and encourage you to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Home learning will be sent home every Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday. We are working with the children on independence so, if you could, please remind them to complete and submit home learning on time.

Discussions have taken place in class about how to have a balanced diet and how this can affect our emotions and feelings. Please have a chat with your child about this and encourage them to make healthy choices at snack and lunch time.

Unit of Inquiry

In our Unit of Inquiry, the central idea that was explored for the first two weeks of school was 'People have unique ways to express their feelings'. Learners engaged in activities where they were able to identify the various feelings and emotions that we experience. They then had the opportunity to identify the factors that can affect one's emotions and take a closer look at how one's behaviour can have positive and negative effects on the feelings of others.

English

In English we have been working on establishing reading and writing workshop routines. The learners have been engaged in a variety of pre-writing activities so that they can generate as many 'seeds' as possible that they can develop into a number of different types of writing products over the next few weeks. We have reviewed the habits of good readers and writers and have worked on identifying suitable strategies for choosing appropriate literature to enjoy. Please encourage your learners to use 'Reading Eggs' at home and also to read for a minimum of twenty minutes per day. They should record the book that they have read in their student planner and have the planner signed by an adult.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the children have been working with numbers to 10,000,000. The learners have been reading, writing, recognising, comparing, ordering and rounding off numbers. Please encourage your learner to use 'Mathletics' at home. This will help them to increase the speed at which they recall number facts.

Languages other than English

Chinese - The children have been learning how to introduce themselves; including their name, age, nationality, family, language and what countries they have been to. Learners with more experience with Chinese have been challenged to do this independently. Learners who are proficient in the Chinese language are working on extended activities and, over the next few weeks, will be set a variety of targeted challenges.

French - Developing the UOI theme, learners have practised saying how they are feeling, giving reasons. This led to the creation of a wall display about our personalities. Having learnt all parts of the verbs 'être' and 'avoir', they can now talk about others as well as themselves. We have just started a new unit discussing hobbies and sports. Learners will also have the opportunity to choose their own personal hobby or sport as the basis of an independent project. Those with more experience in French will extend their skills through extended writing and reading about hobbies they are interested in.

Music

The Year 6 learners have been learning about the different musical instruments. They have discussed how they are played and decided on how best to categorise them into families. They have begun to design a brochure about a single instrument of their choice, and have listened to orchestral instruments in order to begin to recognising the sounds of the different families of instruments. The learners have also begun to sing a number of songs.

Health and Physical Education

The learners have been focussing on working together in teams; developing key skills such as communication and looking at the way we talk to each other during physical games. Working collaboratively and sharing our feelings and thoughts will continue as we start a game design unit called *'It's in the Game!'*.

In the pool, the children have been learning water confidence activities such as holding their breath, floating and underwater swimming. For safe water entry, slide-in entry at the shallow end and feet first entry at the deep end has been practised. Similarly, water familiarisation and safety procedures have been introduced. Learners have been exploring the water depth from 1.1M to 2.0M deep. We have started to focus on enhancing our front crawl technique over a longer distance.

Art

Linking to their current UOI, 'People have unique ways to express their feelings', the Year 6 learners have been looking at non-figurative art as a mode of expression used by some artists. They are slowly letting go of identifiable figures and exploring line, shape and colour to create non-figurative art. They have worked at translating music into texture and lines with varied weights using charcoal and soft pastels. They have experimented with blending oil pastels and are working on creating movement and rhythm in their work. Please send in an apron or an old t-shirt to prevent pastel and paint on uniforms.

Reminders

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please share these with Student Services so that we can contact you in case of an emergency
- Our Year 5 and 6 Learners' Assembly will take place on Friday, 25 October in the Auditorium
- An extra PE class has been scheduled on alternate Wednesdays. The dates for September and October are as follows:

6B - 4 September and 18 September

6G - 11 September and 25 September

2 October and 30 October

23 October



