

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, your child has now entered their final year at Grafton. We feel it is important that we work closely with you this term to prepare your child for the exciting, if sometimes challenging, transition to Secondary School.

In Year Six we expect an increased level of maturity to be displayed by the children. The level of independence required in their studies will obviously increase and we will expect the children to apply themselves fully and to the best of their ability in all aspects of our full curriculum.

The secondary school system demands independence both in learning, responsibility for completed homework and managing their way around school and we will be working towards those ends. With only a few months to go before your child sits Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in English and maths, we would like to remind you how important it is that they make the most of the educational programme offered during this term. Regular attendance, punctuality, enough sleep, regular breakfast and a responsible attitude towards their learning is essential if your child is to succeed.

ENGLISH

In English we will study a range of non-fiction this half term, covering recounts, reports, persuasion, instructions, discussion and explanation texts. We will also celebrate poetry, learning to recite long poems by heart and developing our poetry writing skills, using a range of literary devices. On 16th October, the children will watch *Romeo and Juliet*, performed by the Shakespeare Theatre Company, which will enrich their understanding of one of Shakespeare's well-known masterpieces.

After half term, the focus will be on writing fiction, through looking closely at settings, characters, dialogue, plots and ambitious vocabulary.

In line with the English National Curriculum, all the basic skills will be taught during the daily English lesson. We are reading every day with the children and also encouraging independent reading, using the Islington Reading Road Map books. Please make sure your child reads regularly at home, as this will be essential to their progress.

MATHS

This term in maths, children will be studying the following areas: place value and rounding, multiplication and division, addition and subtraction, mental calculations, calculation problems including BIDMAS (the order of operations: brackets, indices, division, multiplication, addition, subtraction) and algebra, strategies for checking results, fractions, decimals, properties of shape, missing angles and coordinates. Added to this we will be focusing on the thinking and reasoning skills used in maths in order to help the children become more independent in the application of this subject.

SCIENCE

Science lessons this term will be focussed on 'Animals, including humans' in biology and 'Light' in physics. Scientific knowledge will be developed alongside skills in working scientifically: observing; explaining; recording; analysing data and drawing conclusions. Children will also explore the five enquiry types, such as research using secondary sources, comparative and fair testing and pattern seeking, becoming increasingly sophisticated in the way they conduct scientific enquiries.

GEOGRAPHY

This year, Year 6 will be using an exciting new programme called *Geography Mastery*, which will deepen the children's understanding of the geography curriculum. The focus this term is on mapping and fieldwork. Children will learn to plan, carry out and analyse the results of a fieldwork enquiry.

HISTORY

In history, we will focus on World War II and how it impacted life in London. In enquiry-based lessons, will find out about local areas that were bombed during WW2 and what it was like for people living in London throughout the war. We will compare this period of history to others and consider how it has impacted our lives today. As part of this topic, we will also focus on the forgotten fighters and how black soldiers helped win WW2. We are planning to visit the Imperial War Museum after half term.

ART AND DESIGN

The children will be developing their skills in pattern and portraiture in art, as well as designing and building their own WW2 bomb shelters after the half term.

COMPUTING

In computing, children will focus on using the Internet safely and how computing systems and networks work. Using computer technology, there will be a focus on search engines and how to retrieve and select results, including those that are influenced. We will also look at how to communicate safely using information technology.

RE

In RE, children will continue to learn from and about religion in the same way as they have previously. They will consider the questions: Why do some people believe God exists? Can we live by the values of Jesus in the 21st century? These lessons will be discussion and enquiry-based and will link to all major religions.

PE

PE will take place on Tuesday this term for both classes and this term's focus sports will be hockey, football and tag rugby. Please make sure your child is equipped with a pair of trainers or gym shoes and tracksuit bottoms or shorts.

FRENCH

Bahia, our specialist French teacher, will teach the children French. Children will be learning to describe their hobbies and they will be expressing opinions and looking at how verbs work, in French. Children will learn how to talk about family, descriptions, order food in a restaurant, parts of the body and give their opinion about school subjects in French, across the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

PSHE

The focus will be "Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies". The children will learn about mental health, what can affect it and some everyday ways to look after it. They will also learn about the risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco and how these substances affect a human body.

Finally, should you have any queries or want to discuss your child's progress with us at any time, please email one of us and we can usually get back to you within 24 hours.

Roz.porter@grafton.islington.sch.uk

Andrew.young@grafton.islington.sch.uk

Zuri.findley@grafton.islington.sch.uk

Thank you for your help in ensuring your child makes the best progress they can and enjoys a happy, positive Year 6.

Roz Porter Tibbey
Pink Class Teacher

Andy Young
Scarlet Class Teacher

Zuri Findley
Year 6 Teacher