

General Reminders

- If your child is absent from school for any reason, please telephone us (01442 252972) on the first day of absence. If you do not notify us the absence will be unauthorised.
- Please make sure that you advise the School Office promptly of any changes of address, telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc.
- Please ensure your child is on the playground at 8.50 a.m. to ensure a prompt start to the school day. KS2 parents should leave the playground at 8.40 when the bell is rung.
- Pupils should not be absent from school for any reason other than illness. If, however, you need to take your child out of school due to EXCEPTIONAL circumstances, a request form must be completed. These are available from the School Office. Mrs Washford Mower will consider requests on an individual basis on behalf of the Governing Body.
- All children should bring water bottles to school with them each day.
- Remember to check our website for latest news, photographs and other information.
www.nashmills.herts.sch.uk

Nash Mills C of E Primary School



Year 6

Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Teacher: Miss H Jones

Year 6 Autumn Topics

Fantastical Creatures and Their Habitats

Our first topic will be based around habitats – including our own! In science we will be focusing on classification and learning about the work of Carl Linnaeus. We will be looking at the beautiful book ‘Arthur Spiderwick’s Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You’.

We will also be looking at traffic issues in and around Apsley and Hemel Hempstead. We will be investigating Apsley High Street and asking whether we think that it would benefit from being closed to traffic.

Frozen Kingdoms

After half term we will be starting a topic which will focus on the polar regions of our planet. The children will be exploring the physical features of the regions, how icebergs are formed and learn about polar expeditions. In science we will be learning about how animals adapt to life in the polar regions.

Please note: Our Autumn topics are largely geography and science based. The children will have some history learning objectives linked to Ernest Shackleton’s expedition and the Titanic. After Christmas our topic is history based.

English

Reading

This year we will continue to teach guided reading as a whole class. We will be reading a class novel and discuss the content together. Each child will be lent a copy of the novel and may be expected to complete some reading tasks at home. Our class novel for the Autumn term will be ‘Wonder’ by R.J. Palacio.

Writing

Our foci this term are:

- Reports (we will be writing reports based on imaginative creatures);
- Persuasive Writing (we will be writing leaflets advertising PGL as well as writing a persuasive letter about traffic around our school);
- Flashback story with some suspense (based on the activities children completed during PGL week);
- Poetry (we will focus on different devices used to create imagery);
- Narrative (writing a story that uses suspense).

Speaking and listening

- Pupils will continue to discuss their ideas with a partner and in small groups across all areas of the curriculum.
- They will adapt a performance for an audience, linked to the focus on dramatic conventions. They will use and recognise the impact of theatrical effects in drama, e.g. stage directions.
- They will also present a range of persuasive arguments to begin developing their skills at debating.
- They will give, and respond to, constructive criticism.

Spelling, grammar, punctuation

This year we have purchased a new spelling programme called ‘No Nonsense Spelling’. It is a stand-alone programme for children from Year 2 to Year 6 and has been specially created to meet the demands of the new national curriculum. The children will be taught spelling in short sessions and have a spelling journal for them to record their work. Intervention sessions will be run to help children who find spelling trickier. We will start some of our English lessons with grammar and punctuation activities and some concepts will be taught in discrete lessons.

Mathematics

Maths concepts and skills are introduced and revised throughout the year. This term we are focusing on several aspects of mathematics as follows:

Number

Rounding and ordering whole numbers up to 10,000,000 and decimals up to three decimal places. Recognising square and prime numbers and finding their factors.

Interpreting & completing number sequences with missing values.

Using simple expressions e.g. if $3b + 6 = 21$, then $b = 5$

Calculation

Using approximation and inverse operations to estimate and check results.

Using times tables to derive decimal facts e.g. 0.8×7

Converting between standard metric units e.g. change 2.75 litres to 2750 mls.

Fractions (including decimals and percentages)

Using common factors to simplify fractions.

Adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with different denominators.

Comparing and ordering fractions.

Multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.

Solving Problems

Using words with symbols and diagrams to explain reasoning and conclusions.

Measure, shape and space

Describing and identifying 2D and 3D shapes, classifying them by the number of perpendicular and parallel edges or faces.

Drawing quadrilateral shapes accurately.

Estimating the area of an irregular shape by counting and adjusting to whole squares.

Calculating the perimeter and area of rectangular based shapes.

Handling Data

Constructing and interpreting frequency tables, bar charts, grouped data and line graphs.

Helping your child at home

Discuss the day and future plans. Help your child to recognise and prepare in advance for topics and become personally responsible for organising resources such as equipment and sports kit – vital as they move towards the independence required at secondary school.

Support them in organising homework, for instance in identifying a quiet area in which to work and guiding their judgement about a suitable length of time to complete it. Remind them that it is their responsibility to decide whether the standard to which it is completed is reasonable. Please feel free to get them to repeat work more accurately if it is careless or rushed and to plan / draft work first where appropriate.

Encourage reading of a range of types of literature even if they have a strong preference for one; however, praise them in all efforts to read alone. Occasionally, ask them to read aloud to you, for instance when doing their English homework, as this encourages expression, builds confidence and helps to check that they have proof read it accurately first!

Try to ensure that they generally speak in complete sentences rather than relying on gestures and single words. Enjoy a discussion with them on a current news item and encourage use of suitable vocabulary rather than lazy alternatives.

Cook together; let your child weigh ingredients, read measuring scales accurately and convert units.

Ask them to calculate time in hours and minutes in everyday situations. Encourage them to read and interpret timetables for themselves. If you have a road atlas in the car, why not teach your child how to read a map?

Please encourage an interest in important news events and discuss these with them. They are welcome to bring in newspaper articles and striking media images to discuss as a class.

History/ Geography

See details of our Autumn topics.

Religious Education

Children will reflect on what it means to be part of a faith community, exploring pilgrimage to respond to the challenge of commitment in their own lives and within religions. They will describe different pilgrimages and rites and how these stem from belief, investigating the significance of pilgrimage for local, national and global communities.

In the second half of the term we will be focusing on the natural world.

We will look at a variety of creation stories as well as comparing religious beliefs with scientific explanations.

Physical Education

In gymnastics they will continue to develop their flexibility, balance and control and learn how to perform different jumps and vaults.

In games we will focus on netball and tag rugby.

Children will experience 'fitness' circuits designed to challenge them strongly.

Outdoor and Adventurous activities are taught through our PGL residential visit.

Our dance lessons will learn be based around our topics and we will explore expressive movements and a variation of dynamics to convey different creatures and animals.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The initial focus is on 'Being Me in My World.' Children will identify goals for the year, discuss how to empathise with others and think about how our actions impact others locally and globally. After half term, our focus will be on 'Celebrating Difference'. During this topic we will discuss how people differ and reasons behind why some people choose to bully others and how to solve this.

Music

This year we are following a scheme called 'Charanga'. Our first unit will be centred on being happy and the second will be on blues music. The children will learn and perform a song, focusing on rhythm, pitch and pulse, and will then use instruments to support it.

Key Vocabulary

You can help your child by discussing core vocabulary which will be encountered each term to help build confidence and familiarity.

English

dramatise	persuade
narrative	debate
argue	dialogue
pace	characters
scene	extract
tension	impact
atmosphere	mood
imagery	metaphor
structure	simile
visualise	verb
adverb	pronoun
connective	clause

Maths

Place value	Integers
Negative	Ordinal
Decimals	Tenths
Hundredths	Thousandths
Addition	Addend
Subtraction	Minuend
Subtrahend	Multiplication
Multiplier	Multiplicand
Product	Division
Dividend	Quotient
Divisor	Divisible by
Remainder	Fraction
Numerator	Denominator
Equation	Area
Rounding	

Science

classification	environment
system	habitat
mammals	birds
insects	reptiles
amphibians	fish
arachnids	annelids
crustaceans	molluscs
echinoderms	characteristics
micro-organisms	
interdependence	
adaptation	nutrition
consumer	producer
predator	prey
organism	inherit
traits	evolution
adaptations	

Other

polar regions	Antarctic
Arctic	climate
Biomes	longitude
latitude	equator
composition	instruments
global warming	

Science

Our first topic is about the classification of living things, including micro-organisms. We will look at the work of the scientist Carl Linnaeus and investigate his classification system.

After half term we will be looking at revising our knowledge of food chains and then looking at food webs. We will be extending our knowledge of adaptation and inheritance and focus on animals in the Polar Regions such as the arctic fox and the polar bear.

We will investigate how living things have changed over time and look at how fossils provide information about living things from the past.

Design Technology/Art

In DT the children will be applying their understanding of computing to program a floor robot. They will explore a range of adventure maps and use these to create original designs. They will explore how floor robots move along a variety of materials and use this knowledge to create obstacle squares. Children will use appropriate joining methods to make a scale adventure map.

In art we will be looking carefully at the illustrations in 'Arthur Fieldwick's Guide to the Fantastical World Around Us' and imitate the style. We will then be creating and drawing our own fantastical creatures. After half term we will work with pastels and chalks to draw landscapes and animals found in the polar regions.

French

Our first topic will be about families. As well as introducing vocabulary for some extended family members, the unit covers how to talk about household tasks and family-based weekend activities.

Our second topic is all about France. It introduces pupils to the location of some French cities and some popular tourist attractions in Paris. Pupils will also learn how to say the points of the compass, how to use some more past tense verbs and how to discuss which countries speak French.

Computing

The first focus in computing will be 'Young Authors'. During this topic the children will develop a story idea and create a storyboard. They will then use software to create their own eBook including text, illustrations and audio. After half term, the unit aims to give children an understanding of the stock market and engage them in a task that makes them analyse data, make informed choices, present and critique their decisions.

Useful Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/learning

There is a facility on this web page to type in a key word and relevant clips will be offered from 3000 programmes!

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml

A range of activities for children of all abilities.

www.mathletics.co.uk

A comprehensive maths teaching tool with a chance to compete against other children across the world. (School subscription)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victorian_britain/

Children can explore Victorian Britain.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/

Short cartoons and songs to consolidate learning.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/>

A range of activities and quizzes.

<http://www.emaths.co.uk/>

Past SATS papers can be downloaded and used as practice aids.

