

## 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 are asked to leave the playground at 8.40 when the bell is rung.
- In line with recent DfE requirements, holidays **cannot** be taken during term time due to the adverse impact on children's learning. Any requests for absence will only be considered in **exceptional** circumstances and request forms **MUST** be completed if you want to take your child out of school. These are available from the letter racks near the School Office.
- 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](http://www.nashmills.herts.sch.uk)

# Nash Mills C of E Primary School



## Year 6

## Curriculum Newsletter

## Summer Term 2019

**Teacher: Miss Jones**

## Topics

### **Amazing Americas**

During this topic, children will find out about the continents of North and South America, and the countries that form them. They will then look in more detail at some of the contrasting areas of North America, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations in each area.

To link to our science topic – Space – we will also investigate the first lunar landings.

### **The Maya Civilisation**

The children will learn about who the ancient Maya people were and where and when they lived. They will use maps and atlases to locate cities in which they lived and identify countries in Mesoamerica. In addition to this they will learn about the religious beliefs and rituals of the ancient Maya people and explore their number system. We will learn about the work of the explorers John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood, and have the opportunity to analyse historical pictures of the cities they discovered.

## **Literacy**

### **Reading and Writing**

Comprehension activities will focus on test markers' expectations in preparation for the SATS in May. We will develop skills of skimming, scanning, inferring meaning and responding with personal opinions and preferences. **Please still try and find time to read something with your child each week, and remember to discuss the plot and language used, as this will help them to develop these conventions in their writing tasks.**

Autobiographies – the children will take on the role of someone who inspires them and write from their perspective.

Balanced Arguments - Pupils will present a range of persuasive arguments to begin developing their skills at debating.

We will also be exploring the work of Australian author Shaun Tan in 'Tales from Outer Suburbia', 'The Arrival' and 'The Lost Thing.'

The children will be continuing to build up a portfolio of their independent writing, ready for their work to be assessed in June. Wherever possible we try to link writing opportunities to our topics.

### **Spelling**

Pupils are taught to recognise and use spelling conventions through the 'Get Spelling' programme. They will use a range of appropriate strategies to edit, proof read and correct spelling in their own work, on paper and on screen. Pupils should bring in a dictionary so that they can check any spellings that they are unsure of. When we write in class, the children are encouraged to underline words that they are unsure of so that they can go back and compare their spelling to that found in a dictionary when proof reading.

## **Mathematics**

In the lead up to SATS we will be revising key concepts learnt during Key Stage 2, as well as covering new Year 6 objectives. We will revise written and mental methods for calculations and ensuring the children have time to practise applying their skills to a range of previous SATS questions. Children will get the opportunity to complete past papers independently and with a partner. In order for children to discuss method, they will also check and correct completed papers containing errors.

### **Number and Calculation**

Algebra – generate and describe linear number sequences; find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknown variables; enumerate (list or tally) possibilities of combinations of two variables.

Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Use estimation to check answers to calculations and determine (in the context of a problem) an appropriate degree of accuracy. Read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24-hour clocks (revision).

### **Geometry**

Draw 2-D shapes using given dimension and angles.

Measure, compare, add and subtract lengths (revision).

Draw angles and measure them in degrees (revision).

### **Statistics**

Interpret pie charts and line graphs and use these to solve problems.

Calculate and interpret the mean as an average.

Complete, read and interpret information in tables, including timetables (revision).

### **Post SATS**

Construct pie charts; further statistical representations, further algebra and maths preparation for KS3.

## **Helping your child at home**

This term is a key transition time for your child. Routines such as preparing kit and organising homework should be well-established, independent skills by now. Please encourage them to make their own decisions about whether work is suitably completed and ready to hand in – but still get them to repeat their work more accurately if it is careless or rushed, and encourage them to plan/draft work first where appropriate.

Continue to 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. Discuss news items with them and help them to formulate opinions of their own, justifying these views. Encourage use of suitable vocabulary rather than lazy alternatives.

Support them in revision for their SATS tests which are in a few weeks' time, particularly to review topic areas they find more difficult rather than reinforcing existing strengths. We have some Rising Stars Revision books left to purchase from the School Office if you would like one to support your child at home. Please encourage your child to get some decent sleep during this very busy term.

This term we will be teaching a key sex and relationships unit. There will shortly be an opportunity for parents to be informed about what your child will be taught and how it will be delivered. You may well wish to decide how you might discuss this at home. Staff at local libraries or bookshops will be able to offer advice.

## **History/ Geography**

Please see the information on Page 2 about our topics.

## **Religious Education**

The class will compare and contrast different symbols and styles of language in worship, as expressed in different religions. They will reflect on the power of symbols to express what it means to belong to a faith community and how these convey a sense of identity and commitment. They will suggest motivation and meanings for a range of forms of religious expression, making links between these. They will raise and answer questions about what it means to be a 'person'.

## **Physical Education**

We will focus on developing children's technical understanding of athletic activity. They will learn how to set targets and improve their performance in a range of running, jumping and throwing activities. They will understand the basic common principles of play in striking/fielding games such as rounders and cricket. The children will also be taught tennis.

## **Personal, Social and Health Education**

Our first focus will be on relationships and, in particular, about what we can do when we lose somebody close to us. Obviously this will be dealt with in a very considered and sensitive way, but please let me know as soon as possible if there are circumstances related to this that may upset your child, so that I can keep a close eye on them. Thank you.

After half term our focus will be on common responses to change and how children can develop empathy with others. They will consider change, its negative and positive effects and they will be prepared for the impact of secondary transfer. Embarrassment, stereotyping and dealing with loss are all explored in the context of the feelings we encounter in relationships.

## **Music**

Children will be taught to perform melodies and songs together. A major focus will be our preparation for our end of year musical production.

## **Key Vocabulary**

You can help your child by discussing core vocabulary which will be encountered each term to help build confidence and familiarity, especially for the SATS tests in May.

### **Literacy**

rhyme  
narrative  
reports  
quotes  
speech  
journal  
legend  
fables  
myths  
review  
application  
curriculum vitae

### **Maths**

divisible	likelihood
fraction	multiple
proportion	ratio
interpret	symmetry
axes	reflect
unnumbered	divisions
scale	divisibility
probability	
protractor	prime
square	sequence
formulae	denominator
strategy	justify
inverse	approximation

### **Science**

Electricity	components
volts	ammeter
Sun	moon
Stars	planets
phases	constellations
Galileo	Copernicus
Solar system	orrery
eclipses	rotate
theory	theories

### **Other**

artefact  
crucifix  
salvation  
Eucharist  
murti  
aum  
ihram  
hajj  
skull cap  
hijab  
civilisation  
Maya/Mayan  
South America

## **Science**

During the first half term we will continue our study of light. The children will learn that light travels from a source, that when it is blocked a shadow is formed, and when it hits a shiny surface, it is reflected. We will also learn that light sources are seen when light from these enters the eyes. Pupils will make careful measurements of shadows and represent these in a line graph.

After the half term our focus will be on 'Earth and Space'. The children will discover interesting facts about the Sun, Moon and Earth and develop an understanding of day and night, the four seasons and the Moon's phases. The sun and the planets making up our Solar System will be investigated, along with other stars and their constellations.

## **Design and Technology**

We decided that we would save all of our DT projects until the second half of the Summer Term.

Project 1 (food technology) – The Great British Bread Bake Off!

Project 2 (electricity) – A Code Machine!

Project 3 (programming) – Adventure Maps!

## **Art and Design**

Our first unit of study will focus on 'South American Art'. We will make picture puzzles using symbols, make dream catchers, draw an important person and create a collage. The children will have the opportunity to explore the work of South American artists Joaquin Torres Garcia, Leonora Carrington, Diego Rivera and Beatriz Milhazes.

After half term, the children will also be creating totem poles using Modroc to link with our Mayan topic. If you could send in any kitchen roll tubes, we would be very grateful!

The children will also benefit from some lessons delivered by a teacher from Abbot's Hill after half term.

## **French**

During the first half term the children will be learning about jobs. They will be able to name a number of jobs in French and talk about what they would like to be when they are older.

After half term we will look at using the future tense to talk about what they are going to do by using the future tense in the first, second and third person singular and first person plural.

## **Computing**

There will also be a large focus on e-safety and the sensible use of social media. We will finish this unit with the children writing a set of e-safety guidelines. When we visit LEGOLAND on 28th June, the children will take part in a workshop to support the children's understanding of computer programming. During this time they will build a model and then program it.

*You can help your child at home by discussing safety in the use of online environments, such as social media, reminding them that they cannot access many sites until they are 13.*

## **Useful Websites**

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips)

(interdependence and adaptation or micro-organisms)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/numeracy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml)

A range of activities for children of all abilities.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/students](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/students)

Take your pick from a variety of activities in each subject.

[www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com)

Please check that your child knows their password.

[www.poissonrouge.com](http://www.poissonrouge.com)

A range of activities with lots to explore in French.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/)

Short cartoons and songs to consolidate learning.

