

**Bodsham Church of England  
Primary School**

**OWLS CLASS NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2019 (Year 6)**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for a new calendar year, and may we wish a happy 2019 to you all. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and that you and your children are ready for more busy times which lie ahead of us. We are very excited about and are looking forward to what is to come and thank you in advance for all the support that you give to your child at home. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Viking Museum that takes place in the school hall at 2pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, just before the Easter break. More information will be given later on this term.

**Literacy (Year 6)**

In Literacy this term, the children will be continuing to develop their reading, writing, planning and proofreading, and spelling, grammar and punctuation skills within the context of a variety of different text types: our fiction work will focus around the creation of setting and character in and for a variety of texts; our non-fiction work will be on discussion texts and non-chronological reports; and our poetry work will be looking at narrative poems and highly-structural poetical forms.

At home, it would be useful if you could encourage children to check spelling, grammar and punctuation in any writing they may do; additionally, please encourage your children to read a range of genres of text on a regular basis - even one to two pages per night is extremely beneficial to your child's learning. Any discussion about what they are reading is also really rewarding, particularly what we can infer and deduce and how we can prove that using references to the text. Having a wide vocabulary is a vital part of reading and writing, so any development you can support with in this area would be very beneficial, too.

**Maths (Year 6)**

Over the next two terms, the children will be looking at the following aspects of mathematics:

- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Ratio and proportion
- Algebra
- Measures
- Statistics
- Geometry

The focus of the 'mastery' curriculum is on being confident in the core mathematical skills and having a deep understanding of mathematical processes in order to specialise later at secondary school. Therefore, we will regularly be revisiting what may seem quite simple concepts e.g. place value or subtraction, but we will go into much more depth now they are older. Children will be expected to be able to explain or demonstrate their thinking when solving different mathematical problems.

Please encourage your children to use, apply and practise their mathematical understanding at home wherever possible. Please encourage your children to keep on learning and practising their times tables and the speed of their recall of these skills regularly as this will really help children to access more challenging mathematics.

### Other curriculum areas

We shall be studying the following subjects in the other curriculum areas:

	Spring January - April	
Subject	Term 3	Term 4
Class Values & RE	Class Value - Resilience  RE - People of God How can following God bring freedom and justice?	Class Value - Patience  RE - Salvation - What did Jesus do to save human beings?
Topic	Raging Rivers	
Science	Stem - Space	Light
Computing	Film making	
P.E.	Badminton	Gymnastics  Invasion Games

### SATS

We will also be spending time across the two terms on improving our test technique in preparation for our Year 6 SATS in May; we will be developing our reading and answering skills, time management skills and our positive attitude towards tests in reading, writing, SPAG and maths.

### Homework

The Year 6 homework timetable will run slightly differently across the next two terms than in Terms 1 and 2. We have begun our new homework books already, so you will be familiar with them, but it is worth explaining the set-up here. There will no longer be the Numeracy and Literacy activities listed as 'Starters' and 'Main Courses' on the Menu. Instead, each week, your child will receive their own copy of a SATS-style question book for both maths and English, in their own purple folder. I will select specific pages for them to work through each week, specifically relating to that week's learning or to an additional need that I would like them to work on. The intention of this is to focus their home learning on specific areas whilst also giving them an extra opportunity to apply their skills and understanding within these SATS-style questions, in readiness for May. There will also be optional extra homework set, for those pupils who would like to spend a little more time developing and strengthening their skills in maths and/or English.

Your child will still have their orange homework books to bring home each week, and these should live in their purple folders, too. Each week, they will find two things in these orange books:

- the pages that they are to work on in each of their SATS-style books that week; and
- two copies of their spelling list for the week.

Your child will receive all three of their books in their purple folders (giving them a lot to carry!) each Thursday and it should all be handed in each Tuesday for marking.

In addition, this term we will be trialing a new music website that we have bought into. Children will have the opportunity to bring recorders home and to follow a program that will teach them the basics of playing this instrument as well as music theory. This will enhance our music lessons, where children can use the recorders in parts of the lessons. More details of this will be given separately. This will replace the family learning tasks (or desserts on the old 'menu-style' homework sheets).

### **Spellings**

Spellings will continue to be given out on a Thursday, in their homework books. There will be two sheets - one stuck in and one loose for your child to keep at home, as these words will be the ones they will be tested on at the end of the following week (Friday). This means that, even though they will be handing their books in on the following Tuesday, they still have their words recorded at home for learning ready for the Friday's test. We will be spending the year revising and developing our understanding of rules and words that pupils may have come across last year, so please don't be concerned if you recognise some of the spellings. It is vital that the children get into a good routine of learning their spellings so please continue to encourage them to learn them at home. Little and often is a good motto for learning spellings - reminders and checks on a daily basis will help them to secure them in their memory.

### **P.E.**

Our two P.E. lessons will continue to take place on Tuesdays, one with Elite and the other with Mrs Record, therefore please could you ensure all P.E. kit is named and in school at these times. Children must have the correct PE equipment, including trainers, for indoor and outdoor activities. As we are now in the colder months, it is also useful for children to have longer tracksuit bottoms and long-sleeved top, as we plan to go out as much as we can.

We are looking forward to working with you over the coming year, to ensure your child has a happy and productive school life.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Allen, Mrs Record and Mrs Smith  
Owls Class Teachers