



Head Teacher : Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

December 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a very successful 2013, we look forward to a well-deserved Christmas break and the beginning of 2014. Year 6 have enjoyed the World War 2 topic and I am pleased with the work produced by all children. I really believe, and am pleased, that all children have made clear progress across the curriculum, particularly in maths, writing and reading. Our new learning theme next term will be based on Animal Kingdom. This theme will be science and geography based, whilst also forming the basis for literacy; art; music and PSHE work.

#### **MAIN LEARNING THEME – ‘The Animal Kingdom’**

##### **Areas of study for the first half of the spring term will include:**

- Conservation
- Endangered Species
- Habitats
- Life cycles of plants and animals
- Adaptation and interdependence

#### **KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:**

Endangered, conservation, habitat, extinction, wild, domestic, adaptation, carnivore, common, herbivore, omnivore, predator, prey, food chain, threatened, veterinary, preservation, life cycle, life processes, plants, animals, species, process, function, stages, growth

#### **LEARNING SKILLS – Improving Own Performance**

The main focus will be based on these statements:

- I can set realistic goals and evaluate performance, modifying future goals as appropriate.
- I can make informed judgements about my work based on criteria given to me.
- I can identify what I need to do in order to complete a task.
- I can identify what the finished task may look like.

#### **NUMERACY**

The main objectives are as follows: number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling.

We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables. We will be working on **Block A2 – Counting, partitioning and calculating using effective written methods, symbols and images, fractions and rounding; Block B2 – Securing number facts, calculating using decimals, solving problems, properties shapes; Block C2 – Handling data and measures, including the likelihood of events.** We will also be focusing on revision sessions and Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Cockerill will provide additional support for groups of identified children.

#### **LITERACY**

We will continue to study Literacy using the National Literacy Framework and there will be many opportunities for a wide variety of assessed writing and revision session as we prepare for SATs. During next half-term we will be covering the **non-fiction unit ‘Argument’** and the **fiction unit** focusing on **‘Authors and Texts’**. There will be many drama and writing opportunities based around Animal Kingdom including persuasive adverts, descriptive writing and extending our knowledge of poetry by **‘the power of imagery’**. We will also ‘step up’ our regular taught grammar and spelling sessions and provide additional booster sessions for identified children.

#### **ICT**

Children will continue to access the class set of Netbooks to support and develop their learning across the curriculum and complete writing assessments. Children will enhance their skills by looking at using programs such as Word; PowerPoint and Microsoft Programs. Children will regularly access the Internet as a source of information and to develop their skills of scanning and retrieving key information; taking notes and recording information in their own words.

Children will also utilise E-Learning programmes to practise and apply skills learnt across the curriculum. E-safety is of great importance and will be imbedded into all ICT and will be focused on specifically in PSHE and Internet safety units will be taught.



## **PE**

Children will continue to partake in two hours of PE each week. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, **leave it in school all week** then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school. Can we remind you that school rules state that for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. We will ensure we take part in an indoor and outdoor session, so with the weather continuing to be unpredictable, please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor kit, including tracksuit bottoms, hoody/sports top, spare socks, gloves.

## **READING**

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, it is crucial to support their progression with reading comprehension and has a vital impact on their own writing across the curriculum. The children have the opportunity to visit the library at lunchtime and once a week as a class; in this session, they can change their library book. There is also extra provision on a Wednesday for some children to have reading time with an adult. As I may have mentioned in parent evening appointments, please encourage your child to read a variety of texts, including *stories, non-fiction, magazines, comics, children's newspapers and poetry*. Some children have made a positive start to using the reading record books and it is expected that they are filled and it is the child's responsibility to bring these into school throughout the week. Stickers showing the specific reading focus the child has been learning that week will also be placed into the reading record books so it is imperative that every child brings in their reading record book every day to school; especially on a Friday, when house points will be available to those children completing reading each week!

## **HOME LEARNING**

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, this will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one Learning Log per class is chosen to be shared in the whole school assembly on Thursday. Your child will also be awarded House Points for the work produced in their Learning Logs. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child. In addition, I will continue to set key skills literacy and/or numeracy homework. I am pleased with the response from parents as these homework sheets give children extra chance to revise their skills.

Home learning is expected to be completed each week at home and handed in by Tuesday. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break time. Please ensure that your child completes their home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half-term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better!

**I am extremely pleased with the way Year 6 have completed the Autumn Term. I know that a lot of hard work is coming our way in spring, but I know if we continue to strive to be the best and enjoy our learning this will be an even more successful term. Keep going, you can do it!**

**We wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a successful New Year**

Yours sincerely

Mr Robertson  
Class Teacher

Mrs Frost  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Locke  
Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds  
Head Teacher

