



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

February 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

I look back on such a successful first half of the academic year with pride and am thoroughly looking forward to the challenge of the next half of the year that will include SATs and the transition to secondary school. The progress made by all children from starting with them in year 5 to now is excellent to see and know this will continue in the coming months. I know everyone connected in year 6; children, parents and carers and staff are working tirelessly to make this a successful end to Norwood and I extend my thanks.

Year 6 enjoyed the Animal Kingdom topic and I am particularly pleased with the art work produced with the guidance and teaching from Mrs Godden and this is on display throughout the school.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – Alice in Wonderland

There will be a new whole school topic next term which is based around the Lewis Carroll story of Alice in Wonderland. Each class will have their own specific focuses within the different areas of the curriculum. This theme will again be linked across our wider curriculum work and will be the basis for our whole school production in April.

Areas of study for the second half of the spring term will include:

- Character description and different version comparisons
- Film and narrative comparisons
- Poetry
- Play scripts and performance

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Character, plot, film, narrative, playscript, performance, poetry, novel, dreams, pretend, curious, tone, conflict, magical, strange, wonderful, speaking and listening, drama

LEARNING SKILLS – Developing a sense of self-worth

The main focus will be based on these statements:

- I can predict how I might react in particular situations.
- I can use simple strategies to modify my mood positively when I need to.
- I can use a range of strategies that help keep me calm when I feel under pressure.
- I can take an interest in the positive qualities of others, their interests and activities and compare to my own.

NUMERACY

The main maths objectives will cover all topics and will act as a revision in preparation for the SATs in May. Some topics will be covered in more details including calculations, problem solving, measures and test based questions.

We will continue to focus on mental maths and times tables with the aim of improving speed. Due to the focus being on revision sessions, Mrs Frost and Miss Beach will both support maths lessons and Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Cockerill will continue to provide additional support for groups of identified children.

LITERACY

There will be many opportunities for a wide variety of assessed writing and revision session as we prepare for SATs. We will continue to study Literacy using the National Literacy Framework and during next half-term we will be covering the revision units of all text types to ensure that children have a wide range of evidence and have a thorough understanding of each text type. There will be many drama and writing opportunities based around Alice in Wonderland and we will again write our own script to perform at the Voyager end of term celebration. We will continue with regular taught grammar and spelling sessions and provide additional booster sessions for identified children with Mrs Locke.



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. I will aim to continue with an indoor and outdoor session and due to the weather continuing to be unpredictable, please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor kit including tracksuit bottoms, hoody/sports top, spare socks, gloves and suitable trainers.

READING

It is imperative in next half term that you encourage your child to read a variety of texts, including *stories, non-fiction, magazines, comics, children's newspapers and poetry*. Please continue to ensure your child reads at home at every opportunity as I know that the children that have read regularly and taken advice have made more progress than those that have not read as much. There will continue to be extra provision on a Wednesday for some children to have reading time with an adult but this is extra provision and home reading is just as, if not more, important. Some children have shared their favourite books and I am more than happy to make recommendations for what your child may enjoy, please ask.

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs and 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 think these homework sheets have given children an extra opportunity to revise their skills and they have had a positive impact on progress.

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 based around Alice in Wonderland. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning and the work produced will be used in class and during sharing times.

I hope you enjoy a well-deserved half term break and I look forward to working with your child to ensure they continue making further progress and excel in all areas of the curriculum. I know the children are all excited about our whole school theme and performing at the Voyager.

Thank you for your continued support and if I can be of any help or you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to speak to me, my door is always open.

Yours sincerely

Mr Robertson
Class Teacher

Mrs Frost
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Locke
Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Miss Beach
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

