



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

September 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we welcome your child into Year 6 to what promises to be an exciting and fulfilling final year at Norwood School.

We are excited to launch the new learning theme in Year 6 for Autumn Term 2014 '**Natural Disasters**'. To launch this theme, the children made their very own volcanic eruption using bicarbonate soda and vinegar causing a chemical reaction. The results were brilliant and we look forward to experimenting further.

This theme will be linked across our topic work focusing primarily on Science and Geography. The topic will also include links to other National Curriculum subjects including DT, Music, Computing and Art.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – 'Natural Disasters'

Areas of study for the first half of the Autumn Term will include:

- Use maps and atlases to locate Natural Disasters around the world
- Understand the structure of the earth
- Describe the process that causes volcanic eruptions
- Learn what causes disasters
- Describe the impact of disasters and the devastation to settlements it can cause

KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:

Earthquake, volcano, tornado, tsunami, typhoon, natural, disaster, primary and secondary sources, evidence, reliability, map, atlas, globe, locate, severe, affected, process, cause, human settlement

MATHS

Maths will be taught daily in class and in addition 'Big Maths' will continue to be delivered in ability groups across the school. The main objectives this half term are as follows: place value, number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling. We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables and explaining our ideas using mathematical vocabulary.

ENGLISH

We will study Literacy and Language including the unit '**Journalistic writing**' and '**Legends**' during this half-term. Reading material based on these topics can include:

- Child newspapers
- News articles on the Internet
- Adventures of Robin Hood – Marcia Williams
- Arthur High King of Britain - Michael Morpurgo
- Beowulf - Michael Morpurgo
- The King Arthur Trilogy – Rosemary Sutcliff

Your child should be encouraged to read a wide variety of texts, including stories, non-fiction texts, magazines, comics, children's newspapers, internet web pages and poetry. We will also continue to have regular grammar and spelling sessions to further support children's writing progress and focus on SPAG (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation).



Parent/Carer involvement – Trips and assemblies

The children will be learning about Pompeii through computer research and various stories and texts. We would like to share with you our ideas and new learning in an assembly towards the end of the half term. There will also be an exhibition of our science experiments and a showcase of the Natural Disasters that we will create. More details and dates about the assembly and exhibition to follow in the coming weeks.

After half term, we hope there will be an opportunity for the class to visit the local council linked to our Parliament topic. More details of dates and any cost will follow.

HOME LEARNING

Your child will receive a half termly Home Learning Project entitled 'Disasters – Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. This is not a compulsory project however it will be beneficial to the learning in class if your child could complete some of the ideas under the headings – **Creativity, Research, Mathematical and Locality**.

Weekly Maths and English key skills- homework will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Wednesday. This gives the children a full week to complete the homework sheets and return to school to be placed in their folder.

Maths and English key skills are expected to be completed each week at home and handed in on time by Wednesday. 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. This will prepare them for the demands of secondary school and the amount of homework and deadlines they will receive next year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

PE

Children will partake in two hours of PE each week, one indoor and one outdoor. Our PE days (at the moment) are **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Last year many children kept 'forgetting' their PE kits and I hope the new year will bring a vast improvement! Please remind your child it is their responsibility to bring their full 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. If your child forgets their PE kit on the designated PE day, a letter will be sent home to inform you.

SNACKS AND MEALS

Your child is encouraged to bring a healthy snack to school for break but please can I remind you we are a nut free school. Key stage 2 classes have hot school meals available but these must be booked and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either myself or a member of the year 6 team at the start of the school day or by making an appointment via the school office. We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child to ensure that it is a very successful final year at Norwood Primary School.

We look forward to everyone making a positive start in Year 6, full of new and exciting learning opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Mr Robertson
Class Teacher

Mrs Frost
TA

Mrs Locke
HLTA

Mrs Sprouse
TA

Mrs Reynolds
Head Teacher

