

Big Cats Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a brilliant summer. This term the school is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth. In Years 5 and 6, we will be using the character from Mrs Pratchett in our novel 'Boy' as the inspiration for our learning, asking the question "What does it mean to show empathy?"

English

In English we will be writing autobiographies in Roald Dahl's style as well as creating a newspaper report based on one of his memories. After the half-term break, we will explore 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. Our focus during this text will be report writing, fictional narrative and letters.

Each week we will be learning a spelling rule or pattern which will be practised as part of the week's homework. At the same time, we will be working on our Year 3/4 and 5/6 Spelling Lists. Handwriting will be a strong focus this term; please ensure children complete their spellings using continuous cursive (joined-up) handwriting.

Maths

Our units of work this half-term focus on number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. Children will be ordering, comparing, partitioning and rounding numbers. We will be learning the formal methods for all calculations: column addition and subtraction, long multiplication and division. Our mental Maths On The Boil targets are:

- Year 5: Know all number bonds to 1000 (multiples of 5)
- Year 6: Know all number bonds to 1000

Useful websites for this are:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://www.mathplayground.com/PartPartWhole.html>

Your child also has login for RM Easimaths which can be used regularly to support Maths learning.

Science

This term in science we will be learning about living things, evolution and inheritance. We will look at Darwin's theory of evolution, including his study of finches from the Galapagos Islands. We will learn about selective breeding, natural selection and why certain animals became extinct throughout history. As a conclusion to the topic, we will think about what the next step in human evolution might be and how this could come about.

P.E.

We are swimming this term on Friday mornings. Children need to have their swimming kit each week. We also have a rugby coach working with both year groups in preparation for this year's tag rugby tournament. Please make sure children have their PE kits in school from Monday to Friday.



Art and Design & Technology

This term, linking to our topic of The Great Outdoors, we will be exploring patterns and designs in the natural environment. This will involve using the outdoors and its materials to investigate, design and create art pieces that are based on the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a British environmentalist and sculptor.

Music

Year 5 children will embark on Oxfordshire County Council's VIP music programme. Each week, on Tuesdays, the Year 5's will have an hour lesson where they will learn to read music, play a set of notes on their chosen instrument, sing and talk about musical composition. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring in their instrument each week.

P.S.H.C.E.

Our theme this half-term is New Beginnings. Children will be considering the importance of rules, rights and responsibilities when forming their class charter. Children will be learning strategies to manage their feelings and ways to peacefully solve friendship problems.

Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and is expected to be handed in on Wednesday. We have begun using a new homework format this year and would appreciate if parents could tick off boxes for reading and maths weekly tasks as and when they have been completed.

Important dates

Monday 19th September: Come and meet your child's teacher between 3.15 and 4.15 pm

Monday 26th September-Friday 30th September: Year 6 Residential

Friday 7th October: INSET Day

Tuesday 11th October: Addition and Subtraction Workshop

Thursday 20th October: School photos

Monday 24th – Fri 28th October: Half-term

Tuesday 8th November: Division and Multiplication Workshop

Monday 14th – 18th November: Assessment Week

Week beginning 28th November: SEN Profile meetings