**Primary 6 Term 3 Newsletter January 2022**

I hope that all families had a lovely Christmas break, although I know that for some of you it may have been different to what was hoped, and plans may have changed. Regardless of this I hope that some special family time was had and that you all have a very Happy 2022.

This newsletter will give you an idea of the Learning and Teaching that will happen in our classroom this term and update you as to our PE days.

There have been some minor changes to our weekly timetable as detailed below. PE may still be delivered outdoors so on those days the children may wear their jogging/tracksuit bottoms if they wish.

**Monday-** Languages with Ms Ruxton and Assembly

**Tuesday**- PE with Ms Ruxton

**Friday**- PE with me and Golden Time

Reading and homework schedules will remain as in Terms 1 and 2, with Maths homework issued weekly (either revision games, worksheets, or online activities). For this week I have asked pupils to revise and review their times tables and division facts. Please can you also ensure your child has a pencil case with pencils, rubber, ruler, and some colouring pencils (and a sharpener). Water bottles should be labelled and taken home daily, being filled at home rather than at school. We are lucky to have recently restocked our class library with 30 new books but if they children want to bring in a personal reading book from home, they are welcome to do so as we will have several ‘Reading for Pleasure’ opportunities each week. Please encourage your child to fill in their reading log which is in the classroom.

**Topic**

Our Topic this term is Japan, we will be focussing initially on the geography of this wonderful archipelago and then looking at the customs, traditions, and history. As a class we have yet to decide what else we wish to discover but Sushi, Pokémon and Nintendo have been mentioned. As always, we will use our Topic as a focus in other curricular areas too. We will also spend some time considering the geography and politics of Europe as part of our Euroquiz preparations- please have a chat with your child about whether they would like to be considered for our P6 team. Euroquiz is an inter school competition where pupils can put their geography, languages and knowledge of current affairs to the test!

**Expressive Arts**

This term we will be refining our line drawing shading and use of pattern in Art and looking at different rhythms and instruments in Music. We will initially start with a look at the Art of Japan and have a go at some of the traditional techniques used.

**Science**

We will continue to follow the James Webb telescope’s 1-million-mile journey to its destination! Several of the class, and myself, watched the live launch on Christmas day and it is now a nail-biting watch to see if the 6.5m primary mirror will unfold correctly. We will also learn about volcanoes and earthquakes, forces and energy and Earth’s materials. This will all link into our topic as we learn about Japan’s natural disasters and unique place geographically.

**Maths**

We will initially focus on division, reviewing previous work on times tables and building up to dividing up to 4 digits with remainders and dividing numbers by multiples of 10 and 100. We will also be studying the mathematics of measurement, looking at units of mass, volume and length and finding lots of practical ways to explore these.

**HWB and PE**

We will be thinking about our Rights and Responsibilities, how we keep ourselves healthy, making good choices and continuing with our Bounce Back curriculum. In PE Ms Ruxton will continue the team games and skills taught so expertly by Ms Kevan and I will focus on circuits and fitness on Fridays.

**Literacy**

Our writing focus will change to factual reports initially as we learn how *to note take effectively* and write detailed reports about Japan. We will also learn how to write *clear sets of instructions* and learn about how this helps in emergencies such as earthquake drills. We will focus on *speech marks, contractions and abbreviations* in grammar and spelling will continue to be issued weekly. There will also be an opportunity for each pupil to present an individual talk on their chosen topic linked into our class study of Japan.

**Technologies**

We will be learning how to use the internet to gather facts to aid us with our Topic work and will be learning how to produce documents electronically. I am also hoping that we will undertake some Food Technology this term and explore the wonderful cuisine of Japan.

**Reporting home this term**

Your child should have brought home their Effort, Attitude and Behaviour report from Term 2 (in their diaries on p22) if they have been absent, it will be stuck in on their first day back. Please do discuss the comments with your child and add your comments as it helps enormously with their next steps. Your child will be bringing their interim report home the week beginning 24th January.

As always if you have any concerns or questions, you can write them in the diary or telephone or email the school to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss them.

**Dates for your Diary**

January 2022 Wed 5th - Pupils and Staff return to school

Wk begin Mon 24th – Interim Pupil Reports Homework Diaries & Learning Celebration Books go home.

February Thu 10th, Fri 11th & Mon 14th - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 15th & Wed 16th -Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Mon 21st -6th March-Fair Trade Fortnight

March Fri 18th – Red Nose Day ‘Dress as you Please’

Wk begin Mon 28th – Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments Homework Diaries.

April Fri 1st - Last day of Term

Mon 4th - Fri 15th - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 18th - Pupils & staff return to school