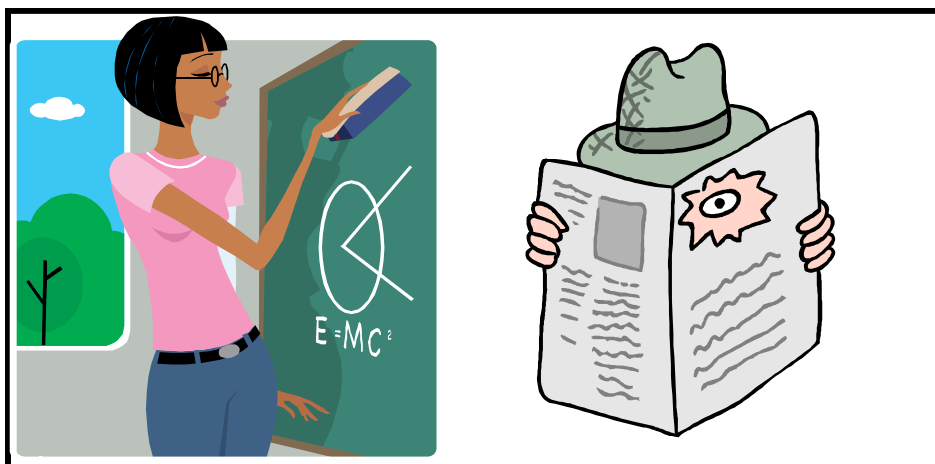


# TERM *talk*

## CURRICULUM NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Issued Termly Spring 20157 Year 6 January–April 2017



## English

We will be starting the term by using drama to help the children learn and re-tell the 'Briar Rose' story. This will be followed up by creating work linked to the text 'The Wedding Ghost'. Whilst working with this book the children will be given the opportunity to write character descriptions; write to build suspense; write story flashbacks and an alternative story ending.

During the second half of the term the children will be reading and working with the book *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The children will be exploring a variety of themes addressed in the text which will result in the children focusing their longer writing tasks on **fiction writing** as well as the writing of **arguments**.

The children will be exploring what makes a good story and writing their own fantasy story in the first person, as Michael Morpurgo does in *Kensuke's Kingdom*. There will be opportunities for descriptive writing, writing in the role of a character, diary extracts as well as character profiling and letter writing. Later in this first half term the children will be looking at balanced and biased **arguments** and the features that make up this non-fiction text type. Alongside this English work the children will also be completing spelling and grammar work. Each week they will cover a different grammar objective and will be encouraged to include what they have learned in their written work throughout the week.

The children will also continue to receive a weekly spelling test and it is extremely important that they learn their spelling list each week as homework. Each list is based around specific words and spelling patterns which they are required to be able to spell by the end of the year.

**To improve their reading further please read with your child for twenty minutes each night. Supporting your child when reading, by asking questions and discussing the text, is essential as this will help improve their ability to answer comprehension questions.**

## Maths



In the first half of the term we will be exploring number, the concept of estimation, partitioning and calculation using the four operations of +, -, x and ÷, building on what they learned in the Autumn term.

In addition to this the children will look at working with negative numbers and using them in the context of everyday life—such as in temperature and with money. The children will also have the opportunity of consolidating the knowledge they gained last year about Roman Numerals.

The children will also be given a range of challenging problems which involve estimation, multi-step calculations and being able to explain the strategies they have used. Following on from this, the children will improve their knowledge of the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. This will increase children's knowledge of the properties of a shape in terms of size of internal angles, parallel and perpendicular lines.

In the second half of the term the children will continue to undertake a wide range of problem solving challenges through a range of topics. These include **Handling data, drawing and interpreting a range of graphs, measuring shape, calculating area and perimeter**. There will be a great emphasis on children being able to explain, using mathematical terms, the strategies they have used in order to solve a problem.

*We ask all parents to support their children with the Maths and ensure they are confident knowing, using and applying times tables.*

## Science

This term the children will start by continuing with the topic Evolution and Inheritance. They will be learning about scientists such as Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace and looking at their theories of evolution. They will then discover how animals and plant adapt to fit their surroundings and in order for them to survive. Following this topic we will move on to look at **Animals including Humans**. The children will be given the opportunity to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and explain the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. As well as learning about how the body works we will also be looking at the importance of diet, exercise and lifestyle and the effects that these can have on our bodies and how they function. To conclude the topic we will look at how the nutrients and water is transported through both human and animal bodies, to keep us functioning properly.



# OUR FOUNDATION

## Computing

In our computing work this year we will be looking at developing some key skills related to coding. We will be developing our maths skills, algebra in particular, through computer programming. We will be carrying out this work using the website [code.org](http://code.org).

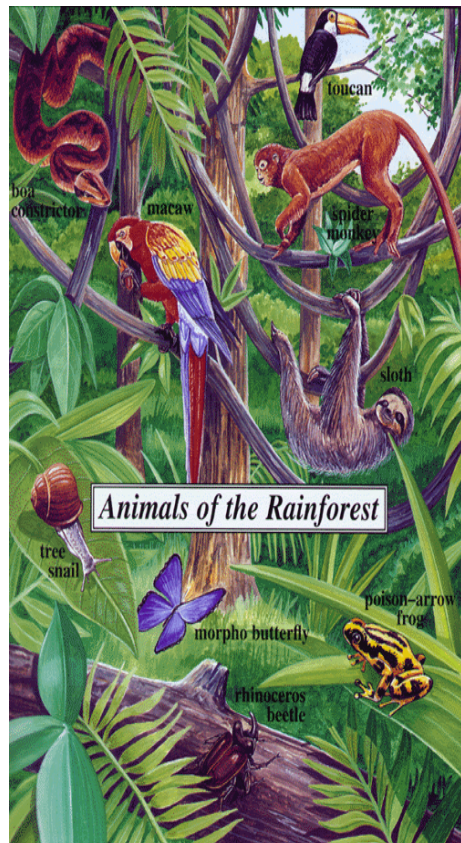
In the second half of the term we will be developing key skills, again linked to maths, using spreadsheets. We will be using Microsoft Excel to input formulas to create mathematical solutions and use variable 'if' statements.



## Art

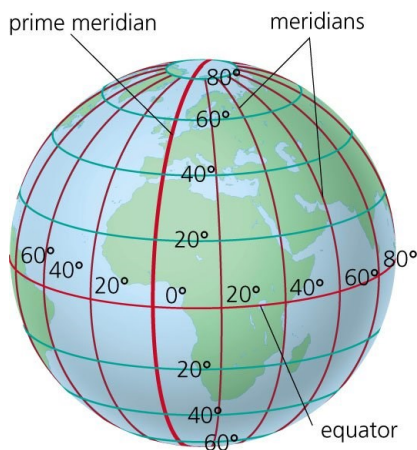
During the first half of the term the children will have the opportunity of working with Mr. Jerry. They will produce work inspired by the artwork in the book 'The Wedding Ghost', which they will be reading in their English lessons.

In the second half of the term by exploring the techniques used in 'Hokusai Pictures'. Hokusai is an 18th century artist, who created water colour landscapes of Japan, using woodblock printing. Year 6 will look closely at a range of his work and use the colour plates and style of painting in order to create their own Hokusai inspired paintings. This topic links with the current shared text, 'Kensuke's Kingdom', in English.



In addition to this, children will also be learning about the affects that the longitude and latitude lines have on climate and time. We will be referring back to Greenwich mean time and how its used as a measure of time for the rest of the world.

You can help your child improve their Geographical knowledge and understanding by looking at different types of maps, how to read them and how to use the map key. Furthermore you can discuss the places in which you have traveled and compare the time differences and climate of that place to London.



The Great wave of Kanagawa, Hokusai's most famous print

## Geography

During this term the children will be focussing on the continent of South America.

Firstly we will revise on the main continents and oceans in the world. Children will develop an understanding of countries, continents, cities and towns and learn the concept of a political border.

Then we will look at south America as a continent, the terrain that it has, the countries and cultural diversity within it and identifying the key landmarks, both naturally and man made. Children will learn about the countries names and their political boundaries. They will be taught how to derive information from atlases such as capital cities, major roads and major rivers by using the key.

Children will be using atlases as well as electronic to find information on the landscape of south America and the topography of the countries within it.

