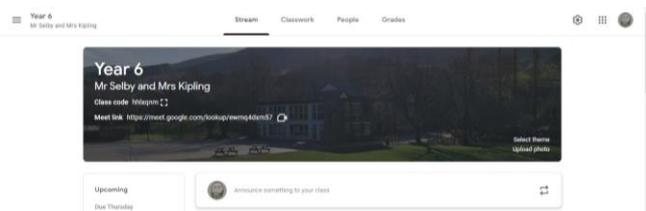


Class 6 Newsletter

SPRING 1 2021

Dear parents/carers and children,

It is with great sadness that I write this as we again go into lockdown, and many of our children will again be working from home. It has been a wonderful start to the year for Class 6, and it such a shame that this special time has been interrupted for them. We will be back together, I'm sure, but in the meantime we will try to make our home learning experience as positive as we can.



Whilst we know that Google Classroom is nowhere near the experience the children receive in school, it is important that the children keep up with their work to the best of their ability. We will be posting work on a daily basis, and will ensure the children receive regular feedback and contact about the work they have completed. We will also aim to provide videos to help guide the class through their learning where possible.

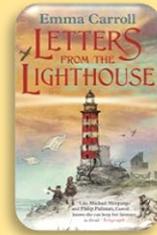
If you are having any issues with accessing any of the content for any reason, please feel free to contact us via our Google Classroom e-mail addresses, or via a private message on an assignment, and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible. Please note, however, that we will be teaching in school until 1pm each day along with our other work, so a response may not be immediate.

Did one battle really save Britain?

This half-term, we will be focusing on World War II in our **history** topic. We will be looking at the causes of the war, and discussing the impact it had on Britain. We will also look at the devastating impact of the war across Europe. We will also tie in some of our geography skills: identifying countries involved in the war, and plenty of map work.

Due to the nature of this topic, some of the material available online can be quite upsetting. Please do make sure you support your children in their efforts to research the topic, so that they are only accessing material which is age appropriate.

English



Letters from the Lighthouse
by Emma Carroll

February, 1941

A bomb blast...
A chance encounter...
Her mother's coat.

In English we will be reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. This is a wonderful mystery set in World War II featuring the adventures of Olive and Cliff as they are evacuated to Budmouth Point in Devon. Emma Carroll's books are perfect for Year 6 children and feature many of the writing features and punctuation we aim to use in our writing by the end of the year. We will also aim to use 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman to highlight the awful consequences of the war for Jewish people across Europe. This is a gripping story, but also incredibly sad and moving.

We will use these texts to write our own World War II diaries in the style of Olive and Clive, and to continue to work on expanding our range of punctuation and grammar.

Key Writing Expectations

In narrative:

- Describe settings
- Describe characters
- Create atmosphere
- Integrate dialogue to convey character and advance the action
- Use verb tenses consistently and correctly throughout writing

Spelling, punctuation and grammar focus

- Capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas for lists and to clarify meaning, inverted commas, punctuation in parenthesis, semi-colons, dashes, colons and hyphens.

Spelling

We will continue to follow our spelling scheme throughout lockdown, and will provide a list of new words each Friday, along with a test of the previous words. Please try to support your children with taking this test.

Reading

It is vital that children keep reading at home, not only for their future academic success, but also as a means of escape and pleasure. We must not underestimate the impact of lockdown on our

children, and reading has been proven to help mental health and lower anxiety and stress levels in those who do it regularly. Please share books and read stories with the children, as well as encouraging them to pick up a book themselves every day!

Mathematics

This half term we will be continuing our learning on fractions, decimals and percentages:

- Use common factors to simplify fractions
- Use common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination
- Compare and order fractions, including fractions > 1
- Add fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions
- Subtract fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions
- Multiply simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form
- Divide proper fractions by whole numbers
- Identify the value of each digit in numbers given to 3 decimal places
- Associate a fraction with division and calculate decimal fraction equivalents
- Recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts
- Solve problems involving the calculation of percentages, [for example, of measures, and such as 15% of 360] and the use of percentages for comparison

Science

Light (Physics)

Our next science topic, which we will begin later in the half-term focuses on light. In the classroom we would also combine this topic with work on electricity, but it is our intention to continue with that when we are all back in school so we can use the equipment and resources available:

- Know how light travels
- Know and demonstrate how we see objects
- Know why shadows have the same shape as the object that casts them
- Know how simple optical instruments work e.g. periscope, telescope, binoculars, mirror, magnifying glass etc.

Physical Education

Whilst many of us are working from home, Mrs Kipling will continue to provide ideas for PE activities which can be completed from home each Friday. Please take part in these and let her know how you have done with each one. It is vital that the children are active whilst they are not in school, so we would advise that you brave as many long walks, bike rides and runs as you can manage in the current winter weather!

Religious Education

Mrs Barlow will continue to provide Religious Education work each Thursday when she would normally work with the children in class.

Thank you to all your support, kindness and (especially!) patience during the lockdown period. We completely understand how difficult this time can be for families, and particular for children who are trying to work from home.

We are here to support you through any difficulties you may be having with the children's school work during this time, so please never hesitate to contact us if you require any further information, support, guidance... or even just to moan about online learning – we understand!

Please do be patient when waiting for a reply: teachers are in school until at least 1pm each day working with children, so it may not always be possible to provide an immediate answer to a question. Whilst there may be times when work is being marked and returned in the evening, please be aware that you may not receive a reply to an email during this time period.

Look after yourselves and each other – we look forward to seeing each other again very soon!

Mr Selby and Mrs Kipling