

Diamond Class Autumn Term Newsletter 2020

Welcome to Year 6. I hope that you have enjoyed being back at Milldene, it has been lovely to see so many smiling faces around the school again. After such a long and confusing period off school, I hope that the children are eager to begin their final year at Milldene. I am very much looking forward to this year and we have a busy but enjoyable term planned. The curriculum in Year 6 is challenging and the children will need to be prepared to take risks, push themselves and take responsibility over their current learning and next steps. Unfortunately, in current circumstances, we are unable to hold 'open classrooms' or 'meet the teacher' dates. However, if you would like any further information about the upcoming year, or just a quick chat, I am happy to arrange a phone call at a mutually convenient time.

English - During the Autumn Term, Diamond Class will, initially, be focusing on letter writing and historical narratives. We will use our WWII topic as inspiration to create some outstanding work. We will also spend time consolidating the knowledge and skills from previous year groups, before moving on to Year 6 expectations. As the term unfolds, we will begin to look at explanation texts and adventure stories. We will focus on how to structure these texts, whilst introducing some Year 6 skills.

Reading - In Year 6, we still use the whole class guided reading approach and will continue this throughout the Autumn Term, whilst also providing focused support on retrieval and inference skills. The children will continue to read independently and quiz using Accelerated Reader. It is *essential* that children are reading for a minimum of 20 minutes a day and that they have as many opportunities to read to an adult as possible.

Mathematics - We will be focusing on Place Value understanding and written and mental methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, focusing on the key skills that the children have missed. As the term develops, we will begin to deepen our understanding of fractions and position and direction. Our maths learning will involve many problem-solving and investigational opportunities so that pupils gain confidence in applying their knowledge in a variety of contexts.

P.E. - In the first half of the Autumn Term, our P.E. lessons will be Fitness and Squash. In the second half, we will begin Netball and Tag Rugby. Our scheduled P.E. lessons are on Monday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure that the children come into school wearing the correct kit and footwear on these days.

Topic – Our topic this half-term is 'A Child's War'. We will be learning about the events leading up to the war, the Battle of Britain, key leaders and events and much more. In the second half of the term, our topic will be 'Frozen Kingdom'. This is a

geography and science-based topic where the children will learn about the Arctic and Antarctic, the animals that live there and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.

Science – During the first half term, we will be focusing on Electricity. This includes revisiting previous knowledge, building and repairing as well as drawing and explaining circuits using the correct scientific symbols and vocabulary. There will be many investigations throughout this unit. The second part of the half-term will focus on Living things and their habitats where pupils will work to classify microorganisms, plants and animals and explain their reasoning.

Homework – Homework will be set regularly over the next term; each piece serves to support or consolidate the skills which we have been using during lessons. The children will be expected to complete reading, spelling, grammar and maths learning at home. My Maths, and other online homework, will continue as soon as possible and will be online. If anyone has any issues logging on to any of the websites, please let me know. Children will also be asked to complete an extended project each term. Further information will follow closer to the half-term break.

Finally, please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your child and their learning as it is vital that we work together to ensure that they have a happy and successful year.

Kind regards, Miss Chandler