



# Curriculum Newsletter



## Year 6 September - October 2018

### **Literacy: The children will...**

**Talking & Listening:** Participate in Active Teaching methods to discuss school and classroom rules. Discuss what they already know and what they would like to find out about The Vikings. Use appropriate mathematical language to discuss their work and explain their thinking, e.g. How to approach a problem/which strategy to use. Use of role-play scenarios in learning to deal with conflict. Recognise and name the different qualities that make us and each other unique.

**Grammar:** Spell words using plural patterns. Extend understanding of parts of speech with reference to nouns, adjectives, verbs, pronouns and prepositions. Punctuate sentences accurately using capital letters, speech marks and apostrophes.

**Writing:** Revise structure and language features of narrative writing. Read, plan and write a variety of narratives with emphasis on correct use of paragraphing. Pupils will write free-verse poetry within the theme "Change" on National Poetry Day (4<sup>th</sup> October). Revision and writing of recounts will be addressed throughout the term. Self and peer evaluations, drafting, editing and redrafting will be an ongoing focus.

**Comprehension:** Apply strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases in a text. Explore poetry through comprehension becoming aware of a poem's message and style. Practise the skill of summarising information through the use of Non-Fiction Readers based on the Vikings.

**Tips for parents:** Grammar and spelling homework is reflective of learning in class and can be used to assist with rule reinforcement at home. Encourage children to draw spelling grids accurately and copy words legibly when using the LSCWC strategy for spellings. Read and discuss your child's reading books asking inferential questions and encouraging clear diction and expression.

### **Numeracy: The children will...**

Revise place value - reading, writing and ordering numbers within 10,000 before increasing this number to 999,999. Practice and extension of addition and subtraction beyond 1,000. Investigate inverse operations regarding subtraction and addition.

Have quick recall of all tables up to  $10 \times 10$ . Apply multiplication to TH, H, T, U.

Understand and explain the relationship between units of time e.g. minute/hour/day. Develop an understanding of am and pm and use appropriate notation. Read and write the time in 12-hour clock.

Visualise and explore nets of 3D shapes. Discuss and describe properties of cubes, cuboids, other prisms and pyramids, i.e. edges, faces and vertices.

Investigate simple function machines for multiplication and division to two operations.

**Mathematical Language:** Use an *Illustrated Maths Dictionary* to record key mathematical vocabulary (relating to topics covered). This can be filled in throughout the year and should include thoughtful sketches to encourage the children to learn new terms.

#### **Tips for parents:**

Revise place value of TTh, Th, H, T, and U within 10,000 appreciating the value of each digit. Extend to numbers up to 999,999. Encourage children to practice using inverse operations when completing homework. Recognise and discuss 3D shapes at home and in the environment to reinforce properties.

Continue to utilise online maths games e.g. [mathsisfun.com/mangahigh.com](http://mathsisfun.com/mangahigh.com) for practice of times tables and other concepts.

Google search "A Maths Dictionary for Kids" by Jenny Eather for definitions and interactive examples.

### **World Around Us: The children will...**

Understand the purpose and structure of a timeline and record key events in Viking life.

Identify the countries of origin of the Vikings. Locate the main Scandinavian countries on a map of Europe and discuss the location and features of these countries using geographical language. Discuss cause and effect in relation to why the Vikings may have left their homelands.

Understand and explore primary and secondary sources of evidence.

Weekly Mandarin lessons.

#### **Tips for parents:**

Read non-fiction Viking books from your local library and make online reservations of books in our school library. Visit the Viking exhibition at the Ulster Museum. If you feel you have expertise in any of our topics and would be willing to speak to the children, please contact us!

**ICT: The children will...**

Discuss online safety using **SMART** Posters in the classroom.

Participate in touch typing practice.

Be introduced to the features of an Excel spreadsheet. Manipulate data and investigate the effects of changing rules and parameters in order to solve problems.

Tips for parents:

Access the P6 **Learning Zone** on the School Website for relevant websites and resources.

**Religion: The children will...**

Contribute to creating a sacred space and be aware of this in their classroom.

Practise Mass responses in class and at home.

Learn about how God has a plan for us.

Recall the story of Creation in Genesis and understand how to use a Bible as a source of prayer.

Grasp the significance of God's promise to Abram and His covenant with Noah.

Recognise that the Gospels lead us to faith in Jesus Christ and to apply His teaching to our lives.

Know how to find a Scripture passage in the Bible, e.g. the Acts of the Apostles.

**PDMU: The children will...**

Contribute to and take responsibility for creating and sustaining a positive learning climate.

Establish a classroom contract for working and interacting together.

Understand and talk about the importance of being empathetic.

Identify situations where conflict occurs and discuss constructive ways of dealing with them.

Recognise and name their own and each other's positive qualities.

**PE: The children will...**

Complete weekly swimming lessons at Queen's PEC. We will require help from parents to walk the children safely to the PEC.

*Please let your child's teacher know if you can assist us.*

**Curriculum Meeting - September**

**Opening Mass** - September at 11am

**Trips to the Ulster Museum** - 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September

**Viking Workshop** - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October

**National Poetry Day** - 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Online Internet Safety Week** - 24<sup>th</sup> September

**The Arts: The children will...**

**ART:** Use a mirror to study their faces and charcoal to create a self-portrait. Pay close attention to the positioning of facial features. Investigate Viking jewellery and illustrate their favourite piece using oil pastels.

**MUSIC:** Sing a variety of hymns with increasing control and confidence (*preparation for Opening Mass*). Develop an awareness of singing in parts, where appropriate. Have an increasing awareness of elements of music - longer/shorter notes, higher/lower notes, dynamics including increasing and decreasing levels of sound and silence. Become familiar with the sounds of some orchestral instruments and/or tuned percussion instruments. Understand graphic notation using sound grids.

**Focus**

This half term we will be focusing on being good friends. There will be special assemblies and lessons on Anti-Bullying.

Please visit the school website to view/download a copy of the Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour Policy.

Children are reminded about using the 'Worry Box' if they are concerned about anything or to seek out the teachers who are here to help: Mrs McNamee & Mrs O'Prey on the Derryvolgie site and Mr Doran & Mrs Kennedy on the Ashleigh site.

**The Purpose of Homework**

- To provide pupils with further opportunities to consolidate and reinforce skills, strategies and concepts.
- To help establish self-confidence and self-discipline and encourage the development of independent learning skills.
- To prepare for the child's future education and to establish a pattern of learning beyond the school environment.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in achieving the aims of the school.

Year 1 - 15-20 minutes

Year 6 Term 1 - 40-45 minutes

Year 2 - 20-25 minutes

Year 6 Term 2/3 - 40-50minutes

Year 3 - 20-30 minutes

Year 7 Term 1 - 50-60 minutes

Year 4 - 30-35 minutes

Year 7 Term 2/3 - 40-50 minutes

Year 5 - 30-40 minutes

(These are approximate times)