



Year 5 and 6 Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. We hope you have all had a good break! We've had a brilliant start to the year already and are looking forward to a successful term!

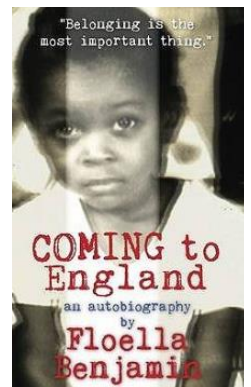
Topics:

In **English** this term, we will start by looking at the theme 'A Double Life' and will begin by reading Stormbreaker. This will be compared with other texts such as



'Anitodote', 'Jekyll and Hyde' and some extracts from the original Ian Fleming James Bond series. The children will be writing job applications to become spies, designing their own 'teenage spy gadgets' and building tension when writing spy narratives.

After half term, English will follow the theme of 'A Long Way from Home' with the main text being 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. Alongside this, we will be looking at a variety of 'Windrush' poetry and also a picture book named 'The Arrival'.



Class Texts:

This year in English, we will be reading a range of class texts including 'Holes', 'The Giant's Necklace' and 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. We appreciate that some children will have read these already but if they haven't, please can you encourage your children not to do so in order to keep the plots unknown.



Geography

Our **Geography** unit this term is '**Caribbean Connections**'. As part of this unit we will learn map and atlas skills and then look at issues which affect some of the Caribbean islands, such as volcanoes, earthquakes and the banana economy- linking to Fair Trade.

Art and DT

Art this term will focus on learning about and comparing the street art of two different cultures: British and Caribbean. Eventually, children will create their own piece of street art that conveys a message that is important to them. In our food technology DT unit, children will learn all about Caribbean food!

Science

In Science, we will be studying Evolution and Inheritance, exploring how living both animals and plants have changed and adapted over time. As part of this, we will visit RHS Wisley to learn about how plants adapt to their environment.



Key Dates for Summer Term

Monday 2nd September: First Day of Autumn Term

Thursday 12th September: RHS Wisley Trip

Thursday 26th September: Flu Immunisations

Friday 27th September: Inset Day

Monday 21st October: Individual School Photos

Friday 25th October- Sunday 3rd November- Half Term

Monday 18th-Friday 22nd November- Y6 Calshot Residential

Friday 20th December- Last Day of Term

Computing

In computing, as well as practising their word processing and typing skills, children will learn to be cryptographers where they will learn all about code breaking; a unit which links nicely to our English unit theme. Later in the term, children will use their computational thinking skills through a range of software to create geometric patterns in art.

PE

In **PE**, we will begin the year with some map based orienteering skills and then develop our attacking and defending skills with invasion games.

Other Information

Homework and Times Tables:

We will be setting Maths homework one week and English the following week which will practise skills that they have learnt in class. Homework will be handed out on Wednesday and due back on Monday. Occasionally, foundation homework (such as Art, Science or Geography) will be set instead of English or Maths homework.

Children will be expected to continue to practise their times tables to ensure this knowledge is embedded.

Reading and Spelling:



Last Year, Year 3 and 4 introduced a new spelling scheme which aligns with how both Droxford and our feeder infant schools teach phonics. This year, this will be further rolled-out into Year 5 and 6. Children will be put into groups to support their spelling needs. As well as homework, there will be weekly spellings (set on **Friday and tested on Friday**.) Children are expected to learn these spellings in preparation for their test. These will follow a rule which will be taught in class.

Reading is so important to develop a range of English skills so children should be reading a **range** of genres and authors **at least five times a week** (and ideally once out loud.) We will also be sending home short passages of texts for children to be reading at home. From time to time, there may be extension activities for some or all children. **Children are expected to complete their reading diaries every week, due in on a Monday.**

Tutors:

We appreciate that several of your children will have tutors outside of school. We are grateful for all of the hard work that they do supporting your child. Can we just ask that they don't use any past SATs papers as we visit this later in the academic year and use these for addressing potential gaps in knowledge.

Finally, we hope that this year will be a happy and successful one for your child. We love hearing from parents throughout the year so please feel free to contact your class teacher (via the office) at any time if you have any questions, concerns, changes or things to celebrate.

We look forward to the year ahead,

The Year 5/6 Team

Helping your child at home: Please encourage your child to bring their reading diary in every day. They are an important record of their reading and are often used in guided reading and English sessions. Listening to your children read is really important, even for confident readers, as discussing the book helps to improve their understanding. Children need to be practicing their spellings and also be learning the rule.

For Maths, please encourage children to practise their tables (as they are easily forgotten.) Practising them in a variety of ways to encourages speed and accuracy and will make maths lessons easier.