



Heathcoat Primary School

Year 5 and 6 Autumn Term Newsletter

September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to welcome all of the children back to school. We hope that you have all had a really relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. Here are the exciting new topics that the children will be exploring in Year 5 and 6 this term.

| Autumn Term 2024 | | |
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| Subject | | |
| English | <p style="text-align: center;">The Sea (Poetry) The children will be focusing on different poetic devices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paraphernalia (Fiction) The children will be writing a description of a short film named 'Paraphernalia'.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">The Tear Thief (Fiction) The children will be creating their own stories inspired by this lovely story.</p> |
| Mathematics | <p style="text-align: center;">Calculating using knowledge of structures The children will develop their knowledge of both written and mental calculations for addition and subtraction.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Multiples of 1000 The children will read, write and understand the value of numbers up to 1 million.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Numbers up to 10,000,000 The children will use their knowledge of numbers to solve problems.</p> |
| Science | <p style="text-align: center;">Living things and their habitats The children will be exploring how living things are classified into groups.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Animals including humans The children will look at circulation, nutrition and lifestyles.</p> |
| PE | <p style="text-align: center;">Real PE The children will develop and apply their ball skills.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Real Gym The children will learn, develop and play gym skills on the floor with hand apparatus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Swimming</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Real PE The children will develop and apply their dynamic balance on a line.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Real Gym The children will learn, develop and play gym skills on the floor with hand apparatus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Swimming</p> |



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| | The children will use a range of strokes effectively and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations | The children will use a range of strokes effectively and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations |
| Computing | Computing systems and networks: Bletchley Park The children will discover the history of Bletchley Park, historical figures, and computer science. They will learn about code-breaking and password hacking as well as decoding messages. | Data Handling: Big data The children will understand the use of big data including barcodes, QR codes, infrared and RFID technologies. |
| DT | | Structure – playgrounds The children will research existing playground equipment and their different forms, before designing and developing a range of apparatus to meet a list of specified design criteria. |
| Geography | Why are mountains so important? The children will study mountains to enable them to comprehend key concepts of physical geography such as plate tectonics and the formation of different rock types, as well as erosion and geological deep time. | |
| History | | WW2 – Battle of Britain The children will examine a wide range of historical sources to help them gain some insight into the thinking of the leaders of Nazi Germany in May 1940 and the reasons why securing air superiority was so critical to them for any invasion plan to succeed. |
| French | Language Angels – The Date The children will learn to say the date and when their birthday is in French. | |
| Music | Songs of World War 2 The children will develop pitch, control and confidence when singing. | |
| Art | Drawing The children will produce observational drawings and apply knowledge using pencil and charcoal | |
| RE | U2.2 Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? The children will learn that some Christians interpret the Biblical Creation story literally whilst | U2.1 What does it mean to be a Humanist in Britain today The children will learn that Humanists have a ‘Happy Human’ symbol, follow the Golden Rule |



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| | others think that it is a description of what God and creation are like. | and have a strong belief in looking after the environment. |
| PSHE | <p>Being me in my world</p> <p>The children will identify goals for this year, understand fears and worries about the future and know how to express them.</p> <p>They will understand that actions affect other people locally and globally.</p> | <p>Celebrating difference</p> <p>The children will understand there are different perceptions about what normal means.</p> <p>They will explain some of the ways in which one person or a group can have power over another.</p> |

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| Dates for your diary: | <p>Half term: 28th October to 1st November</p> <p>Bikeability Y5 and 6 w/c Monday 16th September</p> <p>Parents in for Reading Tuesday 1st October</p> <p>School photo day (individual/sibling photos) Monday 7th October</p> <p>Y5 and 6 trip to Farmwise Tuesday 8th October</p> <p>Parents' Evenings Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd October</p> | <p>End of term: 20th December</p> <p>NSPCC Workshop Y5 and 6 Tuesday 12th November</p> <p>SAV Workshop Y6s only Tuesday 19th November</p> <p>Children in Need Friday 15th November</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair w/c Monday 25th November</p> <p>School Christmas Fayre Friday 6th December</p> |
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READING: It is really important that children read.

Here are 3 example questions that you could ask about their reading:

- **Tell me about what you have just read (summarise).** Can they clearly explain to you what has just happened?
- **What do you think is going to happen next? Why? Explain why you think this.** A good example of an answer would be: I think the main character will go back to the bike track because he was so excited last time, and even though he fell off, he wants to race because he said "I wish I could race my bike like those fast kids". (The child is using what they have read, including quotes, to explain their ideas – even if they are not right about what happens next. They are showing a good guess based on what they have read).
- **Which words do you not understand?** Ask them to try to work out what the word means from the rest of the sentence. Then look up the word on a computer/tablet or in a dictionary.

Children are able to quiz on **Accelerated Reader** from home, following this link: [Welcome \(renaissance-go.com\)](http://Welcome.renaissance-go.com)

HOMEWORK:

We would like children to focus on the key learning of reading and maths for homework each week.



By hearing your child read and discussing the story with them, you will really be helping to develop their fluency and comprehension skills.

By noticing maths in everyday life, you will help your child to understand the importance of maths as well as develop their confidence and skills.

By practising their times tables through games and play they will develop speed, fluency and accuracy in recall which will feed into every maths lesson.

TT Rockstars can be accessed following this link: <https://trockstars.com/>

If your child wishes to do some home learning activities, here are some useful websites to support this.

We are always delighted to see work that the children have completed at home which links to our Maths/English or topic learning at school.

Useful websites:

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| Topmarks | Fun maths games | https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ |
| Scratch | A fun coding ICT site where children can create their own animations | https://scratch.mit.edu/ |
| Spooky Spellings | Spellings from Years 3,4,5 and 6 | https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/spookySpellings/ |
| BBC Bitesize | Learning resources for all subjects for all ages | https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary |

You can help your child at home by using the above websites and encouraging them to learn through play.

If you aren't a member already, the local library in town is free to join and is a great place to visit with your children so they can do research or borrow books to read at home.

PE: Our PE days are **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Children should come to school wearing their school PE kit on these days. This includes a white PE shirt or t-shirt in their house colour, plus their school jumper. They must wear sensible trainers. Earrings must be removed or covered with tape (provided by parents/carers) for safety.

Outside learning: Please remember that children will often be going outside to learn. They will need waterproof coats in school each day- as you know our English weather can be unpredictable!

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to email us if you require any further guidance. We now have a year group email: year5and6@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk This will be checked on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you need to get an important message to us urgently, please contact the office on 01884 252445 or email them on admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

We are looking forward to a really exciting term of learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Cornish, Mr Ferdinando and Mrs Soper (Year 5 and 6 Class Teachers)

Mrs Sullivan (Assistant Head of School and Key Stage 2 Leader)