

Term 1 Newsletter (Leopard Class)



Dear Family Members,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break. The children have settled back into life at school and are really positive about their learning.

This newsletter aims to provide you with an overview of the main learning planned for this term, alongside other useful information. As it is the start of the year, it is a bit of a long one but please read 'til the end! As always, if you have any questions, concerns or worries, do come and talk to me. I am available via e-mail, (info@somerdaleet.org.uk), or at the end of the school day.

The Year Six team are excited to be working with your wonderful children, and we know it's going to be an epic year of learning and fun!

The Year Six team:

Jess Scott	Jenna Hall	Tiarna Lloyd	Jenna Garcia
Class Teacher	PPA Cover Teacher	Learning Support Assistant	Learning Support Assistant
<i>Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri</i>	<i>Thurs all day</i>	<i>Mon, Tues, Weds am</i>	<i>Weds pm, Thurs, Fri</i>

Enquiry Question this term: What impact did the British Empire have?

This term we will be learning all about the British Empire and the impact it had on the world. If you have any books or artefacts, you would be happy to lend to the class for this term, we would be very grateful. Make sure they are named. We will be historians as we explore big questions about colonialism, In week one, the children will pose their own questions relating to this and throughout the term we will explore and answer these.

Learn Together

Equality and justice

We will learn how the democratic process works nationally. Explore what it means to be a global citizen with specific reference to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Engage in research on the meaning of equality by examining the following issue: racism

Engage in research on the work of a prominent figure or group in social justice activism in the UK, past or present addressing the following issue: gender inequality.

Identify an equality issue nationally and engage in activism to address this issue e.g. through awareness raising, letters to national representatives.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus in particular at these three rights:

Article 8: You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

Article 12: You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

English

Our focus book this term is the Last Alchemist. We will analyse character, setting and plot and how the author shows this through language features. We will then write our own version of a wishing tale.

Our main focus in writing will be recapping the grammatical skills learned in Year 5 first through fiction and then through non fiction writing. These skills include relative clauses, fronted adverbials, using various tenses effectively, using complex sentences and showing cohesion throughout a paragraph and across paragraphs.

In guided reading sessions, children will continue to build comprehension and understanding. VIPERS are the skills we will be focussing on Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction. Explain, Retrieval and Summarising. Using our focus book and then Magic Born by Peter Bunzl.

Maths

We will focus on Place Value for number up to 1,000,000.

Step 1	Numbers to 1,000,000
Step 2	Numbers to 10,000,000
Step 3	Read and write numbers to 10,000,000
Step 4	Powers of 10
Step 5	Number line to 10,000,000
Step 6	Compare and order any integers
Step 7	Round any integer
Step 8	Negative numbers

As scientists we will study Living things and their habitats

- Explore how living things are classified into common observable features, similarities and differences including micro-organisms, plants and animals
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics

As historians we will study the British Empire

- Learn about significant events in the history of the British Empire
- In-depth study of the British Empire, studying its significance locally, nationally and globally and exploring the ethical issues that arise through enquiry.

As designers, artists and creators we will:

Exploring Identity

- Discover how artists use layers and juxtaposition to create artwork which explores identity. Make your own layered portrait.

On **Wednesdays and Fridays**, Jess will be taking PE sessions where we will focus on badminton and netball.

School PE Kit

Children will need to come to school wearing clothing and footwear that is suitable to exercise in on their PE days. Here is a list of things that would be suitable to wear on these days. We ask that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name and year group so that it does not get lost.

PE kit list –

- Short sleeved free moving top
- Jumper (if weather appropriate)
- Shorts or leggings (no denim)
- Trainers suitable for running
- Hair tidied up
- No jewellery or tape over freshly-pierced ears

Children will continue to have music taught by professional musicians from Preludes on Fridays.

In computing, children will learn to

- explore how data is transferred over the internet.
- addressing, before they move on to the makeup and structure of data packets.
- to communicate responsibly by considering what should and should not be shared on the internet.

Important Info for parents

Morning/Afternoon Routines

In the mornings and afternoons, when waiting for the doors to open/your child to come out, please wait on the playground by the Year Six classroom.

The door opens at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am. Within this ten minute window, children will be revising maths skills before the register at 8.50am. Pick-up is at 3.10pm.

Please call the office or e-mail info@somerdaleet.org.uk before 2pm if there are any changes to pick-ups at home time.

From next week, we will use our Google Drive folder to upload class newsletters and other information for parents. Here is the link for our class page:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17bO8nHA5_6d2dvpV7ysNQUPAyzPOTvQz?usp=sharing

Reading

Your child has chosen a banded reading book which needs to be brought into school every day with their Reading Record. It is essential for your child's learning to hear them read regularly at home. Your child should change their book as soon as they have completed it.

Bath Literature Festival Trip in term 1 Wednesday 4th October

To support our learning in English we will be visiting the Bath Literature Festival on Wednesday 4th October to meet hear about magic and myths from authors Elle Mcnicoll and Lizzie Huxley-Jones:

Separate letter sent.

Secondary school application information

As I am sure you are all aware, you will need to apply for a secondary school place for your child this term. Applications open from **12 Sept and close on 31 Oct**. To find more information about this and to complete your application follow this link: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/complete-your-school-place-application-0> Please let the office know if your child is attending an open day within school hours.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to email info@somerdaleet.org.uk or see me at the end of the day.

Family Helpers

As a school, we are extremely lucky to have and are extremely grateful for our family helpers! If you, or a family member (such as grandparent) have a few hours to spare regularly each week and you would like to help us out then that would be really appreciated!

We would love some adults who can listen to children read across the year groups and change their books.

Or perhaps you have another skill you think would be useful? If you are interested, then please fill in the online form via the link below: <https://forms.gle/HcSTVaKetKyasohZ7>

Volunteers will need to have a DBS check completed for safeguarding reasons. Any in the office will organise this and there is no cost. Once you've indicated your interest, Jess will get back to you.

A couple of requests...

- Please talk to your child before school each morning about lunch choices, so that they know which option they will choose when they come to school.
- Please bring a named water bottle into school – filled with plain water only.
- Please name all clothes and packed lunch boxes.
- Your child needs to bring their reading record, reading book and spelling journal into school everyday.

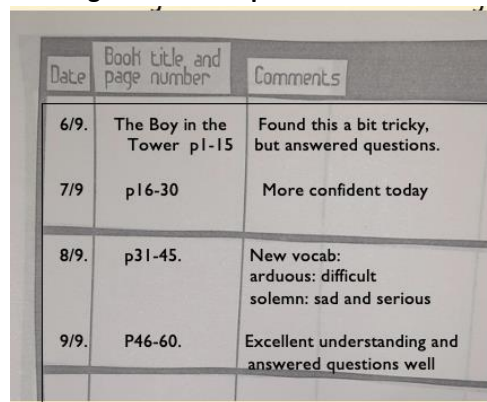
Reading

School Expectations

- Reading Record and colour banded book should be brought to school daily.
- Read for 15 minutes and record in your Reading Record a minimum of four times a week and ask an adult to sign.
- This should include time to hear your child read and talk through what they have read, identifying tricky vocabulary and asking questions to see if they have understood what they have read. E.g. How do the descriptions of show that they are How can you tell that..... What impression of do you get from these paragraphs? Why did the character behave like that?
- After visiting the Library, children will also choose a book to read for pleasure which you can enjoy with them.
- In Upper Key Stage 2 reading is an opportunity to find and learn new vocabulary to improve your writing. Records any new words you learn in your reading and the definition in your Reading Record.
- If you are not recording reading, you will be expected to attend a lunchtime club to catch up on reading.

Why is this important

- Reading is a fundamental skill which is the foundation of many other areas of learning and is important in children's future success.
- Research shows that reading promotes brain, language, and emotional development and that reading for pleasure strengthens relationships.
- Parent's role in the teaching of reading is paramount to your child's progress and this is highly valued by the school.
- **Reading Record example:**



Date	Book title and page number	Comments
6/9.	The Boy in the Tower p1-15	Found this a bit tricky, but answered questions.
7/9	p16-30	More confident today
8/9.	p31-45.	New vocab: arduous: difficult solemn: sad and serious
9/9.	P46-60.	Excellent understanding and answered questions well

Maths

School Expectations

- Children need to practise our focus timetable each week using <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- Times Table Rock Stars can be used for daily practice
- Times tables are practised daily in school and sheets will be sent home for children who are not consistently scoring well.

Why is this important

- Times tables are essential and multiplication facts are non-negotiable basic building blocks of maths.
- Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning
- Children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts.
- Starting secondary school with a fluent, accessible and automatic knowledge of their tables is ideal.

Spelling

School Expectations

- Spelling Journal should be brought into school daily.
- Spellings will be checked and a new set given out every Monday. Children will have 12 spellings in total; six from the year 5/6 statutory list and six from the No Nonsense spelling patterns.
- Please help your child to practise at home by completing the 'Say, cover, write and check' worksheet and using the different strategies such as using rainbow colours for vowels or pyramid words shown on the termly sheet in their spelling books.

Why is this important

- Spelling is one of the essential components of successful writing.
- Research has found that spelling, reading, writing and comprehension skills are all closely linked.
- Spelling instruction improves reading ability and benefits them in all aspects of their learning, as well as in their everyday life.

Parent volunteers

Calling all volunteers! If you, or a family member (such as grandparent) have a few hours to spare regularly each week and you would like to help us out then that would be really appreciated! Reading volunteers are crucial in helping us to ensure we are giving the children as much opportunity as we can to read and develop those fundamental skills. We would love some adults who can help with reading with children across different year groups. If you are interested then please fill in the online form via the link: <https://forms.gle/HcSTVaKetKyasohZ7>

Volunteers will need to have a DBS check completed for safeguarding reasons. Amy in the office will organise this and there is no cost. Once you've indicated your interest, we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Parents Reading Workshop Tuesday 26th September 6pm

We will be running an information workshop to help you best support your child at home with their reading.