

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready for all the exciting learning we have planned for this half-term - fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths; two gripping reads in English and exciting extreme weather in Geography just to name a few topics!

As always, if you have any questions, just pop up to see me or catch me on the playground at the end of the day.

Science

Exploring how our world works continues this half-term with investigating how we see. We will be making our own periscopes to test how light is reflected to our eyes and creating our own shadow puppet performances to test which material creates the best shadow!

Art

We will be looking at the work of Andy Warhol and creating our own 'pop art' style pictures using a variety of materials, including multimedia.

Music

We will be focusing on rhythm, using songs from the Caribbean and creating layered music.

PE and Dance

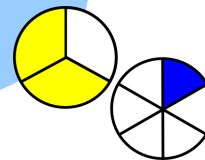
We will be continuing our work on agility and co-ordination with a range of exercises and games, working both individually and as a team. In Dance, we will continue to develop our expressive movement.

Geography

Our topic for this half term is 'Global Disasters'. We will be learning more about the physical geography of our world, the countries in it and how some are affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



Spring 1 in Year 6



Mathematics

In Maths, we are going to be deepening our understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. This is a huge topic and encompasses many skills and concepts, including:

- Representing fractions as a part of a whole, part of a set, part of a quantity
 - Converting between fractions, decimals and percentages
 - Comparing and ordering fractions, decimals and percentages
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals

You can support your child by encouraging them to complete their homework and play online games (examples overleaf). Check on the back of this page for examples of everyday Maths. Also, please continue to encourage your child with their times tables every week!

Computing

We will be deepening our understanding of how to stay safe online on Safer Internet Day in February. Stay tuned to the blog to see what we get up to! Don't forget to **lock it, block it, show it, tell it** for anything that you're unsure of online.

English

We will be getting stuck into The Garbage King - a story about two children from Ethiopia who meet in an unlikely way. Our writing from this topic will be journalistic (creating newspaper articles). After that, we will become spies like Alex Rider, based on the book 'Stormbreaker'. This will provide us with opportunities to practise our reading comprehension skills as well as writing persuasively and to explain. We are continuing our spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons, looking at ways to enhance meaning in our writing as well as learning all we need to know for our SATs. As always, spellings will be sent home every week - children are expected to learn these and will be tested every Friday.

How can I help my child at home?

Websites

Sumdog (<https://www.sumdog.com>) - times tables and maths games to consolidate in-class learning.

Bug Club (<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>) - reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar games to play.

Top Marks (<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/fractions-and-decimals>) - games to help consolidate learning of fractions, decimals and percentages that we have done in class.

BBC Bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk/education) - a wide range of subjects, activities, games and quizzes to practise what we are learning about at school!

Everyday Maths

There are lots of ways that you can help your child understand the importance of Maths in their lives. Try some of these ideas!

- When shopping, ask your child to estimate the total cost by rounding. For example, three items at 99p would roughly cost £3 as 99p would round to £1.
- Can your child calculate the amount of change they will receive from a £5/£10/£20 note? This is especially good for mental maths, which is a skill they need to develop.
- Use percentage discounts in shops to help your child consolidate what they are learning in class. For example, if an item is discounted by 50%, how much was it originally? Or, how much would this item cost if it were discounted by 10%?
- When cutting food into slices, ask your child to tell you what fraction they have received/ what fraction is left over.
- Get them to time how long it takes to do everyday tasks such as the food shop, drive to school, complete their homework... can they convert this time into minutes/hours and minutes?
- Cooking is a great way to practise Maths - conversion between grams/kilograms, time taken in the oven, cost of ingredients etc.

Homework, home-reading and library books

PE kit needs to be in school on a **Wednesday and Thursday** please - children may arrive at school in their PE kit on Wednesday to save time but they must bring their school uniform to change into afterwards. Our day to **change library books** is **Wednesday**, so please remind your child to bring their book in!

Homework and spellings will be set on a Monday for checking the following Friday. Homework is compulsory in Year 6 and consolidates what has been learnt in class—if your child is struggling, please encourage them to talk to me! Homework Club will happen on Tuesday lunchtimes for those who wish to take part. Sumdog and Bug Club will have activities set for the children for home-learning if they wish to extend their understanding out of class.