

In other news...

As always, there are lots of other fun things happening in Pheasant Class this term, including:

- United Voices Singing Concert: With singing practice at CHS on Friday 12th January and at the Festival Theatre on Thursday 18th, the big event on the evening of Thursday 18th (7:15 – 8:15pm) should be music to all our ears. Don't forget to get your tickets booked if you haven't had the chance already.
- Author Visit: Writer C.S Clifford will be visiting our school on Thursday 11th January. His afternoon will be spent with the children in Pheasant Class on a narrative writing workshop.
- A couple of class trips (details to be confirmed): We are planning two days of fun, learning-centred educational visits for the children to really bring their learning to life. Further details will be announced nearer the times.
- Y6 Bikeability: The week beginning 26th March has been booked in for Y6 to participate in their Bikeability (cycling proficiency) training. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.



Useful websites for supporting learning at home include:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zyr9wmn>
- <http://code.org/learn>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/>
- <http://www.mathplayground.com/index.html>
- <http://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/
- <http://www.literacyshed.com/> (film clips to inspire writing)
- <http://nrich.maths.org> (maths challenge for Key Stage 1 & 2)

As always, if you have anything you would like to discuss or query with regards to your child's learning in school, do pop in and let me know.

Kind regards,

Dan Taylor



Lavant C.E. Primary School
Pheasant Class Year 5/6
Spring Term

TERM DATES

TERM ENDS: Thursday 29th March
HALF TERM: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February
INSET DAY: Friday 9th February

Overview

Children in Pheasant class will be learning about a range of areas during their learning journeys this term, all building knowledge and core skills, while helping to develop their written work. This approach is designed to give children the chance to really think deeply about key areas of learning, with all elements tied together to ensure learning really makes sense. Among other things, learning journeys this term will include e-safety and the perils of the internet in computing and PSHE, the life of Jesus and how he is considered a king (in RE) and a fun debate unit in geography centred around a genuine, local environmental issue.



In the second half of the term, some of the children's learning will be thinking historically, developing their knowledge about how our local area changed during the 1930-40's, before switching over to an exciting science and DT unit based around designing motorised vehicles.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set as last term, with the emphasis on short, regular bursts of independent study complimenting the work that children do in class. This consolidates learning, while also preparing them for years ahead, building on their organisation skills. A homework task (usually English related) is set on a Friday to be completed and handed in for marking the following Thursday. Maths homework will be set through the Mathletics website, and is a mandatory part of the weekly homework schedule. This maths work is set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Monday. There is a wealth of quality maths challenges on the Mathletics website and certificates are handed out during our Friday Achievers assembly for those children who go above and beyond in their Mathletics learning.

After the successful trial of Spellodrome last term, we have invested in the full website for all KS1/KS2 pupils to use to build on their spelling ability. Regular short practice on the website, coupled with our investigations and activities during class time, will make a huge difference to the long term retention of the tricky spelling curriculum in Y5/6. As always, children should also be reading (a range of fiction) regularly and discussing texts with an adult at home, while also practising times tables as often as possible (a weekly times table quiz is timetabled for Fridays). We will endeavour to keep you informed of your child's progress in their homework / spellings, etc through a weekly update in your child's homework book.

Literacy

Most of the writing tasks this term will relate to the children's learning journey topics. For example, while studying e-Safety, the children will be learning to write persuasively in order to convince their peers of the importance of staying safe online. Later in the term, the children will be building on their debating skills (through both oral and written work) through an exciting project set up in conjunction with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy group.

That time of year when the Year 6 children take their National Curriculum tests is approaching. You may already know that writing is no longer assessed through tests, but instead through the teacher assessment of a range of the children's writing. In order to give the children the best possible chance to produce thoughtful, interesting and ambitious writing we are going to run an 'Author's Workshop' on Monday afternoons this term (starting a little later this half term). Children in year 6 will be taught as a year group and will engage in a range of writing tasks designed to inspire them to think about different styles and genre. During this session, Year 5 will remain in class for a lesson led by Mr King.

Numeracy

We will begin the year with a strong focus on fractions, understanding the tricky concept of what a fraction represents and how we can manipulate number to aid our mathematical understanding. We will also be consolidating our written calculation skills for each of the four operations through weekly arithmetic quizzes. Other individual units of work within the term include decimals and percentages, reading and manipulating negative numbers, data handling (now called statistics) as well as other stand alone topics.

Each week the children will also be given plenty of opportunity to demonstrate their skills in reasoning and ability to apply prior learning to solve a range of real-life problems. The children will continue to be tested on multiplication tables recall each week on a Friday. Those children who are currently learning their tables will be closely monitored and given a specific number to focus on each week.

We will be continuing our approach to mathematical questions and answering in Pheasant class with emphasis on children proving WHY they believe something is correct and not solely answering the question, so rather than answering $3 \times 5 = 15$, the children will need to think a little more deeply and answer (for example) $3 \times 5 = 15$ because 3×5 is the same as adding the number five three times.

Physical Education (P.E.)

In games the children will develop their skills in a range of invasion sports, beginning with football. Other P.E. lessons will include both gym and dance sessions, with gym work building on a range of gymnastic shapes to create and perform a routine to music.

Please ensure that P.E. kits stay in school all week and that your child brings a tracksuit or sweat top to wear over their P.E. kit when the weather is particularly cold - we do still like to get outside.

