

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: Friday 5th April
HALF TERM: Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February
INSET DAY: Friday 15th 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. Among other things, learning journeys this term will include some work on music appreciation and understanding, a science unit on Animals and Insects, and a fun, whole school learning journey.



In the second half of the term, some of the children's learning will be thinking historically, developing their knowledge about various Monarchs of Britain and the effect they had on our country, before switching over to a geography Learning Journey on Japan and the Far East.

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.

We are continuing to use Spellodrome 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 regularly (and be committed to a novel they are really enjoying) and discussing texts with an adult at home, while also practising times tables as often as possible.

Literacy

Most of the writing tasks this term will relate to the children's learning journey topics. For example, while studying about classical music, the children will be learning to use speech correctly to drive forward their story. Later in the term, the children will be building on their scientific writing skills through our unit on animals and insects called "Life of Lavant".

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 further work on decimals and building our understanding of 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 investigate multiplication tables patterns each week and be quizzed on progress on a Wednesday. Those children who are currently learning key 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 hockey. 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. Our daily push of fifteen minutes of fitness will continue with a wide range of activities designed to raise the children's heart rate at least once a day.

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.

