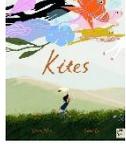


Welcome back to Year 6!

Firstly, I wanted to say how well our new Year 6 have taken to the new routines and roles in school during their first few days back. I am proud of the maturity that they have shown, particularly in the respect that they have shown for each other and the staff that are working with them. After such a long time away from the classroom it might take a little while to settle back in, but already they are showing great learning attitudes.



Recovery Curriculum



At The Croft, we have chosen to begin this term together by using two whole school texts. Each class will plan activities to meet their own year group objectives. During the first half term we will take our stimulus from the book titled 'Kites' by Simon Mole and Oamul Lu. From this text Year 6 will take inspiration for writing narrative, poetry and explanation texts and our maths is linked to angles and shape. Through topic lessons, we will explore different types of wind and the location of the their occurrences (linking to our Frozen Kingdom topic later this term). We will learn where kites have been useful in history and will be researching, designing and creating our own box kites prototypes, following the style of the World War 2 Gibson Girl kites (which will link to our World War 2 topic later in the year) in Art and D&T. The second text will be 'After the Fall' by Dan Santat, the story all about 'How Humpty Dumpty got back up again'. While using this text, we will learn all about 'Lifecycles' and 'Gears, Levers and Pulleys' in Science. In Literacy, we will focus on developing our use if a wider range of punctuation and making links within texts while in maths, we will cover measures on length and data handling. Both texts have been chosen to allow us discuss and consider many PSHE (Personal and Social Health Education) areas, allowing us time to focus on the children's wellbeing as a priority as part of our recovery curriculum.

Homework

Homework will be given each Friday and will be due in for the following Tuesday. Homework will be, alternately, Literacy and Maths activities based on content covered previously or during that week. If there are any issues with homework

please contact me



Spellings



Spellings will be recorded each Friday (along with homework) and will be tested on the following Friday. These spelling will either follow spelling patterns or will feature Year 5 and 6 common words.



Timetables

It is really important that the children still practise their times tables at home. TT Rockstars log in details will be reissued to the children for them to use and if any children find any specific table tricky, then 'Hit the Button' is a great resource for the children to use as well.

Reading



The children will be issued a new book during the first week. Our aim is that the child should be heard read with at home at least three times per week. In school, the children will be heard read by myself or Mrs Johnson, individually, at least once per week. More focus will then be on developing further reading skills in our guided reading lessons.

PE



Miss Cole replaces Mr Longmore to deliver our PE sessions this year. On a Wednesday, the children will need to wear their PE kit (white T-shirt, tracksuit trousers and trainers) with their school jumper to school. They will remain in their kit for the day. This is with the health and safety of the children in mind. On a Wednesday morning, Mrs Stanley will be in Class 6 teaching Art, DT and RE for the other morning lesson.



Literacy

Following our learning linked to the two whole school texts, our class texts will be linked to our Frozen Kingdom topic. We will use fiction and non-fiction texts to find out about the Titanic and about the lives and adventures of both Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott as well as the

story of Matt Henson, with the text *Race to the Frozen North*. In their writing, the children will write a range of fiction and non-fiction developing their editing skills with a focus on vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. The children will build on their use of punctuation to use brackets, dashes or commas. We will also build on the children's use of grammatical features including modal verbs (would, might and will), adverbs for possibility (possibly, maybe and perhaps) as well as relative clauses (phrases beginning with which, who and that).



Maths

Following on from our work in shape and data handling we will focus on place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and fractions, including adding, subtracting and converting mixed $1\frac{1}{2}$ and improper $\frac{4}{3}$ and finding fractions of quantities. We will regularly revisit our basic skills in order to keep our skills sharp! Our Maths lessons will include practice through fluency tasks and will lead to the children using and applying what they have learned to reasoning and problem solving activities too.



Science

As part of our recovery curriculum, the children will learn about materials, their properties and their changes. We will also learning about living things and their habitats, where the children will learn about the life processes and lifecycles of some plants and animals. This will also link to learning as we describe the changes as humans develop to old age. Later in the term we will build on prior learning from Year 4 to delve deeper into electricity and circuits.



Computing

Using 'Purple Mash', the children will continue their learning about internet safety. The children will revise and learn more about 'Email' (using their own Email addresses for use within the Purple Mash program) and about 'Blogging'. In these topics the children will learn about email safety, opening and responding to emails and about attachments. During our 'Blogging' topic, the children will understand the key features of a 'blog' and its purpose.



Topic

Both the children and I are very excited about our first topic, Frozen Kingdom. As part of the Frozen Kingdom topic; the children will be using painting and block printing in Art focusing on Inuit art and the Northern lights. In History, they will learn about emigration and life in the Early 1900s while in Geography they will learn about the features of the Polar Regions. Soundscapes will be our music focus and in DT we will be creating lighthouses.



PSHE and RE

Our focus on well-being this term will involve the children embarking upon a range of activities based on their feelings and emotions. In the first PSHE topic 'Me and my school' the children will investigate their right and responsibilities, resilience and setting goals. 'Me and my Safety' topic will cover the effects and dangers of drugs, the consequences of decisions and then basic first aid.

In RE the children will investigate ceremonies associated with joining or belonging to a faith community and talk about the meaning of commitment. They will also be reflect imaginatively on the meaning of stories drawn from religious sources.

Finally, I am very pleased to be working back with your children again and as ever if there are any questions, please contact me via the office, if you would like to arrange a telephone conversation or via email staff17@croft.staffs.sch.uk.

Kind regards, Mrs Hatton.