

Ysgol Gwernymynydd Year 4/6 Newsletter

Summer 2016

Welcome back to the Summer term. Sadly the weather outside looks more like January than May but this is our third and final term of this academic year and we have lots of exciting things planned for our class. The children have all made super progress during the past two terms and I am very proud of their achievements, we plan to have a super Summer term!

Topic – The Olympics

Our Junior Department will be starting a new and exciting Geographical based topic this term; we will be looking at the country Brazil. This is a topic which has been covered in the past but we have spent time re-vamping our schemes of work and we will be looking at and working alongside the skills based curriculum along with links to Literacy and Numeracy across the curriculum. We felt Brazil would be an excellent topic this term as this summer the Olympics is held there which means we will be discussing and completing a number of tasks on this. We have also had an Olympic Athlete visit our school and support us in a fund raising event. The children will continue to develop their Art, IT, PE, DT, History and Geography skills under this one topic. RE, PSE and Welsh continue to be taught each week.

English:

Following on from all our fantastic work on Bardsey Island we are now enjoying reading our class novel Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpugo. The children are thoroughly enjoying reading the story and have already written some really great pieces including a letter in a bottle and designed their own island character, lots of this work is already on display so please pop in and have a look. We have lots more exciting activities planned including designing their own island and planning and writing their own adventure story.

How can you help? We greatly value all the support you give your child at home. Please continue to read each night with your child; five minutes each evening can make a huge difference to your child's understanding and confidence. Don't forget to read to them as well, whatever their age! For a child to continue to develop an extensive vocabulary they must access texts that are challenging and demanding—the best way for them to do this is for you to read to them, and don't forget to talk about what you have read together so that you can clarify understanding and develop their thinking and reflection skills.

Maths:

We continue to work through the curriculum for maths each day by completing sums, puzzles and investigations. This term we will be concentrating on the following elements of the curriculum: number patterns and sequences, calculating area and perimeter, probability and averages and calculating volume. Running alongside each of those specific concepts we continue to develop the children's number and calculation skills by reinforcing strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

How can you help?

The children have all become familiar with the website **Topmarks** (www.topmarks.co.uk) during the last term, it has a huge range of games and online activities for the children to complete either individually or with a parent supporting. In addition the children need to regularly practise their times tables up to 10 x 10 so that they can quickly recall them and use them in their work. I believe practical maths at home is a great way to explore and develop concepts; looking at a calendar, calculating times for a TV programme, reading a bus timetable, calculating quantities for baking, adding up toys they would like from the Argos catalogue, working out a good deal/bad deal in the supermarket etc. The more experience of using maths in everyday life they have, the easier they will find new concepts taught at school.

Other topics:

SEAL—Going for Goals PE—Cricket, rounders and tennis

Homework: (If possible)

Reading: Every night

Spellings: Every night (if given)

Learning Log/Homework: When appropriate it will be handed out each Friday and returned by the following Wednesday.

What to bring to school:

Equipment

A proportion of children are currently coming to school without the basic equipment they will need during the day. Whilst we do have some spare stock I feel it is important that the children get into the habit of looking after their own equipment and making sure **they** have what they need for each day. A pencil, rubber, blue pen and sharpener is plenty for everyday use.

Reading Folders

Reading folders, reading records and reading books should be brought into school every day and taken home every evening. Your child should practise their reading every evening; if possible aloud and to an older sibling or adult to help develop their fluency, expression and comprehension skills. Please try and write a comment in their book each time you hear them read.

Healthy snack

We would like as many children as possible to receive a healthy snack from school each morning. For £1 a week your child will receive a piece of fruit or occasionally a yogurt. Snack choices include grapes, strawberries, bananas, apples, pears, oranges, satsumas, peppers and cucumber sticks. We try and encourage our children at Gwernymynydd to make healthy eating choices each day which is in line with Welsh Government policy and our Healthy Schools award. If you do choose to send a snack from home then please try and limit it to healthy options e.g. fruit.