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### Violet Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2012 – Term 3

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all and I do hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Welcome to term 3 of Year 6. This term promises to be a busy one - there is a lot to be achieved in terms of academic work, friendship and attitude!

#### Targets

Our targets this term are;

Literacy - developing the use of effective WOW Words in our writing, ensuring that they are varied, interesting and appropriate.

Maths - developing the use of number bonds, ensuring that our number bond knowledge extends to multiples and decimal, using them with all four operations and applying them to a variety of contexts.

Science - focussing on Exciting Experiments; Writing and following a method, selecting equipment, using it correctly and safely.

#### LEAP Awards

The whole school focus this term is Communication and Language Development and Health. These link with all the work we have been doing on writing, communicating and Safer Internet Day later in the term. Year 6 have looked through both sets of statements, trying to understand what they mean and how they can achieve them. I encourage you to discuss with your child which one they are working towards and what they need to do to achieve it.

#### Adventure Island

Our topic has changed this term and we now have a **Geography** based unit of work. Adventure Island looks at our planet and some of the environmental issues facing us. These include different landscapes, climate change, global warming and our eco-footprints. As well as developing geographical skills, the children will look at representing landscapes using different techniques and creating a globe in **Art and DT**, studying plants and soils in **Science** and using the outdoor learning environment in **Forest Schools** to develop teamwork skills. Our **ICT** topic is using Excel and spreadsheets however; it will also support the rest of our topic work. In **Spanish** we are going to be learning the vocabulary connected to places and directions and in **Music**, there are two new songs to be learnt.

#### SATs

In addition to the busy curriculum, Year 6 will also be completing another set of practice SAT papers in the coming weeks, in order to gain some more experience of the May test papers - their organisation and timings. SATs week is 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2012. It is important at this stage for them to evaluate how they have been working and whether they have made the expected progress.

The results of these tests will be shared with the children, since the sharing of solutions and errors is one of the key ways for them to pick up tips in order to make improvements. I hope that you will encourage and support your child when we do these practice papers, so that they can learn as much as possible from doing them. I will let you know how they achieved in these when I see you again at the March Parent's Evening. The CGP Study Guides and the Revisewise website ([www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise)) may be helpful to the children.

All the children have been progressing this year and now they need to demonstrate it consistently - and not just for these tests! This includes work ethic and attitude of always trying their hardest and challenging themselves.

### **PE and Forest Schools**

PE will again be on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please ensure your child has their PE kits in school, being prepared for both indoor and outdoor lessons, as well as any inhalers they may need. Full PE kits are needed on these days as part of the curriculum requires the children to change for hygiene reasons and therefore all children do need a change of kit. This term we are going to be doing dance; exploring a river's journey, volleyball and circuits.

In addition to this we are also going to be introducing other sessions taking place outside and using the school grounds. Your child will need appropriate clothing for these sessions. Forest Schools will take place on a Thursday afternoon and Mrs Weaver will be joining us. The children do need to have suitable clothing for being outside in all weathers; a change of footwear, trousers and coats are essential. It is similar to Play Rangers and every child will be participating every week. At the moment, the weather is very wet and windy; we still plan to go outside so please encourage your child to be prepared!

### **SuperClubsPlus**

The children are, once more, welcome to come into school from 8:30 on Monday mornings to update their SuperClubs page and respond to emails. We are encouraging the children to be aware of their safety whilst on the internet, especially when contacting other people via email or instant messaging. In addition to the sessions at the beginning of the year we are getting them to think carefully about what they are saying and accessing on the internet. If you could reinforce and support us at home, we would be grateful.

### **Spellings**

Spellings will be on a Wednesday morning. All the children have had their spellings for the term and are being encouraged to learn them in school and home. The children are also being encouraged to set themselves realistic targets for the number they will get correct each week.

### **Homework**

The children are going to have a self directed task which will last throughout this topic. Each child will pick an issue based around the science or geography areas in Adventure Island. They will then have to research and present the information in the form of a reference book. Examples will be available in the classroom for them to look at and I will give them some opportunity in class to carry out some work. The children will be expected to organise their research and do independent writing throughout the project.

### **Mangotsfield Secondary School**

A quick reminder that on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January we are going to Mangotsfield Secondary School for a second Science lesson - all of the children have returned their permission slips last term.

We have also been invited to watch a production of Storyville by Mangotsfield's drama students on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10:30 until lunchtime.

*"Welcome to Storyville - People have gathered from Everywhere, Always, Nowhere and Never to celebrate the safe return of The Great King from his latest battle. You'll hear tales to tickle you, stories that will make you sob, amazing anecdotes and hilarious histories."*

Walking to Mangotsfield Secondary School in school time is something Year 6 do most terms with parental permission. To save time gaining individual signed permission slips for each child we are going to assume that all children can attend this event unless you write in your child's Home School Diary to state otherwise. All children will be going to watch the show unless you tell us differently.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to drop me a note in your child's home school diary. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kind Regards,

Miss C Mountford