

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you had a lovely summer and your children are looking forward to an important year in Class Phoenix. Here is an overview of what we will be studying over the next term.

ENGLISH:

Stig of the Dump: The children will be studying both the novel and the television series of a young boy who finds a friend in 'Stig' - a caveman who lives at the bottom of a quarry, while at the same time improving their fictional writing skills. If your child would like to read the story in class a copy of the book can be found on amazon or at your local library.

Horrible Histories Non Fiction Report Writing: In this unit the children will look at writing non-chronological reports based on historical facts with possible gruesome, amusing twists included.

Persuasion: The persuasion unit will focus on historical events of the Tudor era; the children will write letters and perform speeches.

Loteria de Navidad (The Christmas Lottery): This short film clip follows the life of Justino who works as a security guard in a factory. The clip expresses the values of generosity, thoughtfulness and Christmas cheer which the children will be writing about.

MATHS: this term we will be covering the following areas:

- Number and Place Value - this will include ordering, rounding and Roman Numerals
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions - which includes decimals and percentages
- Measure - this will include conversion of metric measure, perimeter, area and time
- Geometry - which will include 2D and 3D shapes, as well as measuring, drawing and calculating angles.

TOPIC:

Horrible Histories: The children will take a tour through history beginning in the Savage Stone Age with time spend looking at the Bronze and Iron Age. They will then study Vicious Vikings with a focus on Edward the Confessor before moving onto the Terrible Tudors. As it is the 350th anniversary of The Great Fire of London, we will be looking at this also.

Christmas: Children will be getting into the Christmas spirit through D&T, art and music. They will also investigate the Christmas story in RE, considering why there are different versions.

RE: As well as the Harvest and Christmas RE, children will be investigating spirituality and sacred texts.

Science: Science skills will be taught in one discrete lesson each week. These will focus on areas such as predicting, analysing data, evaluating etc. Outside of these lessons children will be studying properties of materials.

PSHE: Our unit this term will be 'New Beginnings'. This will aid the children to make a fresh start in their new class and begin to prepare them for the added responsibility of life in Year 6.

PE: Children must have labelled PE kits (including suitable footwear) in school every day. In PE lessons children will be taking part in tag rugby and football as well as developing balance, agility and coordination before working on gymnastic skills.

Homework: Homework will be set every day and the timetable will run as follows:

Monday	Reading and spelling* (Reading record to be signed)
Tuesday	Number clubs and times table practice
Wednesday	Reading and spelling* (Reading record to be signed)
Thursday	Topic (To be handed in the following Monday)
Friday	Numeracy or Literacy (To be handed in the following Monday)

*Note that a separate spelling homework letter will be sent out.

Reading Awards - The children will work towards their reading awards by reading with an adult. To help your child to achieve their awards, please sign their record after each read. Please note that only one read will be counted per day unless your child reads with an adult during the school day.

How can you help your child?

Here are a few ideas of things that you can do at home that will help your child's development:

- Help them to complete their homework and take pride in what they produce. It is vital that children complete their homework on time as it gives the opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt in class.
- Read with them as often as possible or ask them questions about what they have been reading if they are more confident.
- Encourage them to pack their own school bag, taking responsibility for their own things.
- Ask them what they have done at school and discuss it (hopefully they won't say, "Nothing!").
- Focus on celebrating their effort and perseverance.
- Correct their speech if they say things incorrectly.
- Orally practice times tables or related facts e.g. $6 \times 7 = 42$, $0.6 \times 7 = 4.2$.
- **NOTE:** By Year 6 children should know all of their times tables up to 12×12 .
- Ask them to tell you what the time is using analogue clocks.
- Challenge them to add up shopping items or select which option is best value for money.
- Play educational games on Internet.
- Help them become independent learners by having set routines e.g. always do homework and go to bed at a set time.

I am usually available to meet parents to discuss any issues on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school and am in the playground before school. If you require a longer meeting, we can reach a mutually convenient date. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,
Stuart Barker