****

**Hawthorn Newsletter Spring 1**

**Note from the Year 6 Team**

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year, enjoying a well-deserved rest and quality time with family and friends. Wow… what an amazing Autumn term we had: the Xmas performance was spectacular and we were so proud of the ambition and resilience that our Y6s demonstrated with their singing, acting and dancing in preparation for this. Many even battled through sore throats and coughs, still managing to give it their all! We really appreciate all of the efforts that parents and other family members went to with the costumes for the performance too – thank you so much. We look forward to 2025 – a year that will be the start of new beginnings in the next stage of school life for our Y6s. Please remember that the wellbeing of your children is at the top of our agenda. If you have any questions or concerns related to your child, please do not hesitate to email or ring the school office and either Mrs Perkins or Miss Smales will contact you as soon as we are able to.

*We are looking forwards to continuing to working in partnership with you this year,*

*Mrs Perkins and Miss Smales (Team Y6)*

**Important Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Who’s in class** | **Extra info** |
| Monday | Mrs Perkins (all day)  Miss Smales (all day) | New spellings introduced in class  New text introduced in whole class reading and sent home today  Active 15 |
| Tuesday | Mrs Perkins (all day)  Miss Smales (all day) | Active 15  Gymnastics with Mrs Perkins and Mack |
| Wednesday | Mrs Perkins (all day)  Miss Smales (morning) | Active 15 |
| Thursday | Mrs Perkins (all day)  Miss Smales (all day) | Learning logs checked for reading practice at home  Active 15  Gymnastics with Mrs Perkins and Mack |
| Friday | Miss Smales (all day)  Mrs Bell (11am – end of day) | Active 15 |

**Dates for your diary**

* Wb 6th January: ***Half-termly spelling test***
* Monday 13th January: ***Times Tables Rockstars Day – Rockstar Dress Up Day!***
* Monday 20th January: ***Science Week***
* Tuesday 11th February: ***Safer Internet Day***
* Friday 14th February: ***Last day of half term***
* Monday May 12th – Thursday May 15th 2025: ***SATs Week***

***PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY DURING SATS WEEK***

**Key things to practise daily/weekly at home**

**Spellings**

As last half term, we will be working our way through the statutory spelling lists for Upper Key Stage 2. Hawthorn’s spellings for Spring Term 1 are listed below. We will focus on three of these spellings each week in class but the children will also need to practice these at home.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| accompany | apparent | average | bruise | committee | conscience |
| controversy | criticise | equipment | exaggerate | guarantee | harass |
| interfere | interrupt | prejudice | signature | symbol | soldier |

**Reading**

Daily (or every other day) practise of reading from the whole class read text or reading for pleasure book and recording in their learning logs will also really help as reading is the absolute key to understanding all other areas of the curriculum. Please note that reading for pleasure books can be swapped any day of the week. All children will have their whole class read text (changed weekly, studied in class from Monday to Wednesday and sent home on a Monday and Tuesday) as well as a book they will read for pleasure. If your child could aim to read daily, or at least 4 times a week, and log this (and any other reading) in their learning log, we can then see and support your child from there. We are encouraging the children to read widely and to talk about what they have read at home, at school and to focus on expression, fluency and then demonstrate the ability to discuss the text, talk about the vocabulary and their understanding. Online books are on Active Learn and new ones can be added - we check them regularly and update them; if your child needs more, please let us know.

**Online Learning Platforms**

Times Tables Rockstars, Numbots and Active Learn are the 3 online platforms that we use in class and there is an expectation that your child can access these at home too independently. There will be 2 sessions a week in school allocated for these and 1 session (approx. 20mins) for homework. Usernames and passwords are at the front of the learning logs. Please see us if you require any further information about these.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Website** | **Resources** |
| [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk) | A variety of eBooks allocated to your child individually. |
| https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/60522 | Times Tables Practice. |
| https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login/60522 | Key Addition and Subtraction Practice. |

**What we will be learning this term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Focused text:**   * The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas * Poetry   **English genres**- Narrative, Balanced Discussion and Poetry | **Maths concepts covered-**  Fractions, Ratio, Algebra, Decimals and Mental Arithmetic  **Time tables to practise-**  Your child needs to have instant recall of all facts up to 12 x 12. They should respond to any times tables question such as 8 x 7 as quickly as they can respond to the question ‘What’s your name?’ It would be beneficial for you continue to recap the 6s and 12s this half term. |
| **Other Curricular areas:**  This half term, PE will focus on gymnastics. In Science, we will study forces and continue to discuss changes to our class tree, the Hawthorn. In History, we will study the impact of 20th century conflict (with a focus on WW2) on the people of Britain both during and after. Within art, we will focus on sculpture and creating a stable structure combining different qualities and techniques. In DT, we will develop the skill of textiles by designing and making a pencil case, bag or cushion. In Music, we will develop musical skills by producing a Grime piece using the online music studio ‘Yu Studio’. Within Geography, we will study the biomes and natural processes of tropical forest and desert. Computing learning will focus on creating media, with an emphasis on 3D modelling. In RE, we will explore Muslims and Christians with a focus on inspirational founders and leaders. In Spanish, our unit focuses on vocabulary that is useful when at shops and we will also focus on vocabulary relating to family and vegetables. We will continue to learn the song ‘Feliz Cumpleaños’. | |
| **Showcasing our learning this half term**  Keep visiting our class page and school website for updates and blogs! | |

**Expectations of you and your child**

* **Importance of school**- Ensure your child recognises the importance of coming to school so that they are ready to listen, learn and play an active part in their learning journey in their final year of primary school.
* **Behaviours**- Our school rules are ready, respectful and safe. Our school values are belonging, kindness, ambition and resilience. Your support in encouraging your child to display these behaviours in school and demonstrate our school values is much-appreciated and will help your child prepare for high school and the wider world.
* **Independence-** We place great emphasis on children developing a growing sense of pride and organising themselves well in preparation for high schoolindependence. It would be most beneficial for you to encourage your child to be organised and prepared for their day in school independently to help facilitate them becoming more confident and self-reliant.
* **Growth Mindset-** We actively encourage a positive mind-set in everything that your child participates in (even if it is a skill or subject that they don’t particularly feel that confident with yet). The key word is yet!

**Ways to Help your Child**

* **Reading –**Children are expected to read at least 4 times a week and record this in their learning logs. Please help to promote your child’s love of reading by encouraging them to read often, widely and by reading other books written by authors that they have previously enjoyed. If you are able to listen to your child read regularly at home, this would be especially beneficial on a Monday evening to further enhance their understanding of the vocabulary in the text that we explore in whole class reading on a Tuesday. If you are in a position to listen to your child read more than once a week, this will be highly beneficial in aiding their inference and comprehension skills as you can focus on asking questions about the events/information, characters and language of the story/text. In addition to the whole class extract, which your child will bring home on a Monday and Tuesday, they will also have a library book that they have chosen themselves based on their interests. Children will be encouraged to change their reading books independently when they are ready; however, adult support and guidance will be available for those that request it. Visit Active Learn for additional books - see the front page of the learning log for logins. If you require more books, please see one of the Year 6 team - we will refresh and add books regularly.
* **Times tables -** Children are expected to access Times Table Rockstars at home 3 times a week to focus on repetition and also quick recall in any order. Encourage your child to be fluent in their response to all questions up to 12 x 12.
* **Spelling -** Encourage your child to practice their year group’s statutory words and zero tolerance words within their learning log as we will be checking these in your child’s writing as the year goes on, as well as allowing for class time to teach and practice these too.
* **Writing-** We continue to be impressed with the passion and creativity that the children have for Writing for Pleasure. There is always great enthusiasm for this. Remember, if they write anything at home that they would like to share, please don’t hesitate to send these in as we would love to celebrate their creativity.