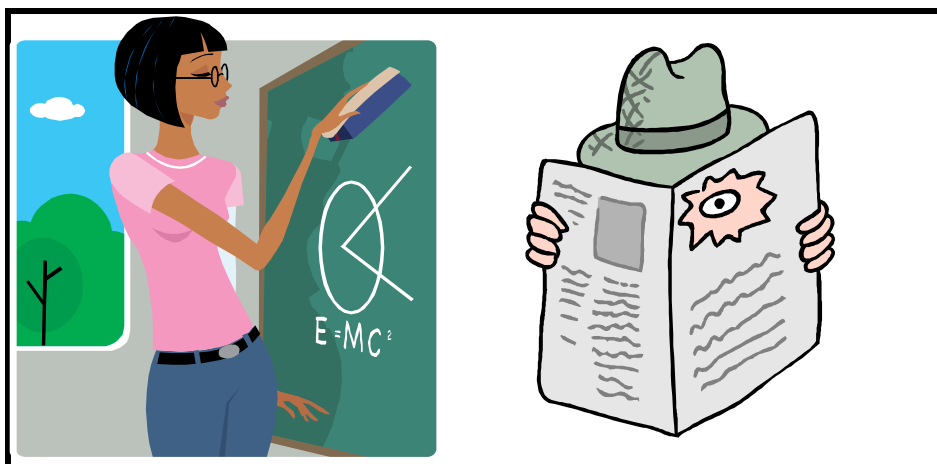


# TERM *talk*



**CURRICULUM NEWS  
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**  
Issued Termly Spring 2015 Year 6 January –April 2015



## English

We will be starting this term by reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo'. This will then be the basis for a large proportion of our literacy work for the first half term. The children will be exploring a variety of themes addressed in the text which will result in the children focusing their longer writing tasks on **fiction writing** as well as the writing of **arguments**.

The children will be exploring what makes a good story and writing their own fantasy story in the first person, as Michael Morpurgo does in Kensuke's Kingdom. There will be opportunities for descriptive writing, writing in the role of a character, diary extracts as well as character profiling and letter writing. Later in this first half term the children will be looking at balanced and biased **arguments** and the features that make up this non-fiction text type.

In the second half as this term we will be reading a range of texts, including diaries and letters, which will enable the children to explore the use of dialogue, flashbacks, interesting, eye catching and descriptive vocabulary as well as exploring the use of level five punctuation, which they have been practising in class.

In addition, the children will be exploring the many ways in which the quality of their writing can be improved. This will include the use of connectives and interesting openers, such as adverbs, as well as using different sentence length for effect.

We will also be revising different non-fiction text types and the features of each of these texts. There will be a great emphasis on children checking through their work, looking at ways to improve it, recognising errors and making corrections.

**To improve their reading further please read with your child for twenty minutes each night. Supporting your child when reading, by asking questions and discussing the text, is essential as this will help improve their ability to answer comprehension questions.**

## Maths

In the first half of the term we will be exploring number, the concept of estimation, partitioning and calculation using the four operations of +, -, x and ÷.

Children will use **decimal notation** for tenths, hundredths and thousandths. They will **partition** numbers with up to three decimal places and learn how to explain the value of the digit in the number for example: What is the value of 4 in the number 13.648. 4 = 4 hundredths.

The children will also be given a range of challenging problems which involve estimation, multi-step calculations and being able to explain the strategies they have used. Following on from this, the children will improve their knowledge of the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. This will increase children's knowledge of the properties of a shape in terms of size of internal angles, parallel and perpendicular lines.

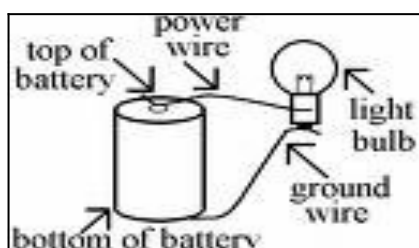
In the second half of the term the children will continue to undertake a wide range of problem solving challenges through a range of topics. These include **Handling data, drawing and interpreting a range of graphs, measuring shape, calculating area and perimeter**. There will be a great emphasis on children being able to explain, using mathematical terms, the strategies they have used in order to solve a problem.

*We ask all parents to support their children with the Maths and ensure they are confident knowing, using and applying times tables.*

## Science

This term we will be working on three science topics. The first topic this half term is **More about Dissolving**, this will then lead up nicely into looking at **Reversible and Irreversible** changes, which is our second topic. We will start by revising what a solid, liquid and a gas is, the **separating** of mixtures of materials by **sieving and filtering** and what happens when solids **dissolve** and form a solution which cannot be separated by filtering. We will then revise the process of **evaporation**. We will investigate the changes which occur when materials are mixed and whether the processes can be reversed to obtain the original solids.

In the second half of this term, we will investigate and explore electricity in the **Changing Circuits** topic. The children will revise how a **circuit** works; how electricity flows through it and its uses in the home. The children will investigate what happens when a **component in the circuit** is changed, as well as exploring ways to make a light **brighter or dimmer**; make **motors go faster or slower** and the **function of fuses** in electrical devices.

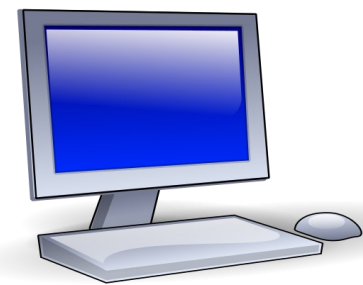


# OUR FOUNDATION

## Computing

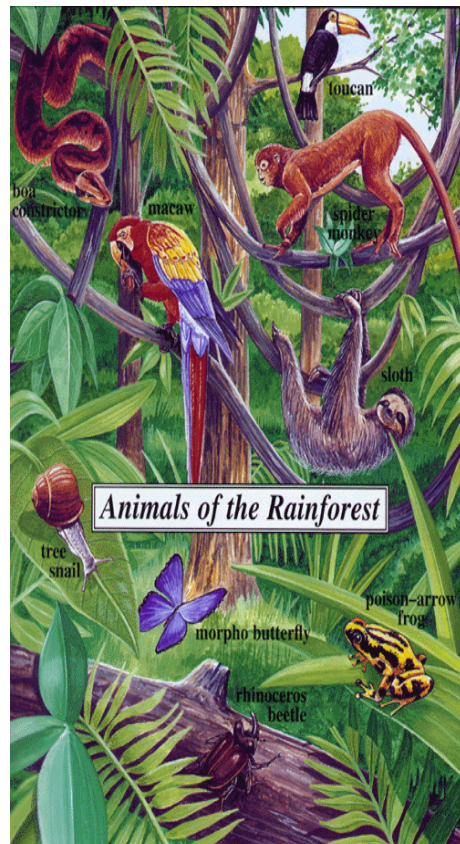
In our computing work this year we will be looking at developing some key skills related to spreadsheets. We will be using Microsoft Excel to input formulas to create mathematical solutions and use variable 'if' statements.

After the half term break we will begin to look at multimedia work and will plan, storyboard, develop and film independent pieces on cameras in the school. We will then use editing software to trim, cut and sequence our shots. A completed film will hopefully include titles, credits and an audio track.



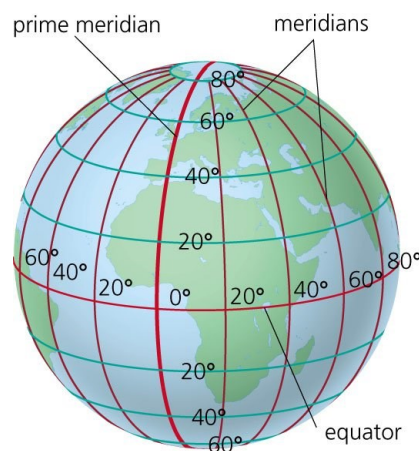
## Art

We will begin the term by exploring the techniques used in 'Hokusai Pictures'. Hokusai is an 18th century artist, who created water colour landscapes of Japan, using woodblock printing. Year 6 will look closely at a range of his work and use the colour plates and style of painting in order to create their own Hokusai inspired paintings. This topic links with the current shared text, 'Kensukes Kingdom', in literacy. Later this term year 6 will learn about the celebratory events related to Lent, looking specifically at the Mardi Gras carnival which takes place in Rio de Janeiro. Pupils will be creating carnival masks using a range of media and design skills.



In addition to this, children will also be learning about the affects that the longitude and latitude lines have on climate and time. We will be reefing back to Greenwich mean time and how its used as a measure of time for the rest of the world.

You can help your child improve their Geographical knowledge and understanding by looking at different types of maps, how to read them and how to use the map key. Furthermore you can discuss the places in which you have traveled and compare the time differences and climate of that place to London .



The Great wave of Kanagawa, Hokusai's most famous print

## Geography

During this term the children will be focussing on the continent of South America.

Firstly we will revise on the main continents and oceans in the world. Children will develop an understanding of countries, continents , cities and towns and learn the concept of a political border.

Then we will look at south America as a continent, the terrain that it has, the countries and cultural diversity within it and identifying the key landmarks, both naturally and man made. Children will learn about the countries names and their political boundaries. They will be taught how to derive information from atlases such as capital cities, major roads and major rivers by using the key.

Children will be using atlases as well as electronic to find information on the landscape of south America and the topography of the countries within it.

