



# Autumn term 2011

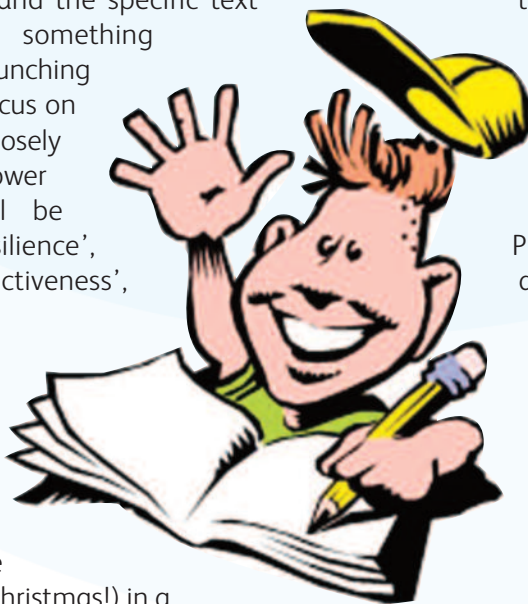
## St Ives Junior School

# Y6 newsletter

Mr Allcock, Mrs McAvoy, Ms Hart and Mr Tudor would like to welcome all children and their parents / carers into year 6 at St Ives Junior School. We are all very much looking forward to the year ahead, a year of particular significance as it is your child's last year of primary education. We have included information about what promises to be an exciting and stimulating new term below. If you have any queries or concerns then please contact us at your earliest convenience. The new year meeting for year 6 parents will be on Tuesday 13th September at 2.30 p.m when we will discuss and answer questions, and share with you our expectations for year 6 children as they lead up to their national assessments (SATs) in May. If you are unable to make the open afternoon and would like to meet with your child's class teacher, please arrange a suitable time. Thankyou.

## LITERACY

This year all our fiction and non-fiction texts will be taught and learned through the storytelling and writing process. To begin each unit we will **imitate** a story or text through story telling, drama, story tag and hot seating. In the second week we will begin to **innovate** the learned story/text by adapting it to make it our own. In the last week the children will be able to **invent**, here they will be drawing on their knowledge of the learned story/text and the specific text features but creating something completely new! We are launching this year with a learning focus on information reports linked closely to our Building Learning Power learning, where we will be revisiting the 5 R's of 'Resilience', 'Resourcefulness', 'Reflectiveness', 'Reciprocity' and 'Responsibility'. Later in the term we will also explore the importance of Michael An Gof in Cornish history, creating our own historical fiction based on his legend which will be published (just in time for Christmas!) in a whole school story book of tales related to Cornwall. Watch this space!!



## IPC

Our IPC unit of learning this term 'Making the News' will focus on current affairs and the media. Students will learn about the history of communication dating right back to the 17th century and the invention of moveable metal type. This enabled the first newspapers to be published, via Paul Revere's midnight ride to warn the Americans of a British attack as well as morse code, leading us right up to the present day and the invention of email, text and smart phones to share news across the information highway. Students will also explore how news is interpreted and how we are both represented and involved in current affairs at a local, national and global level. We plan to link this learning with our Sense of Place learning on 'Cornwall at War' and we also aim to make our own radio news broadcasts using the podcasting software Podium, and hope to be able to visit the renowned telegraph Museum at Porthcurno early in October.

## SPELLINGS

Following its successful implementation last year we will be continuing to use the spelling programme 'GET SPELLING' whereby pupils will learn and consolidate their spelling every day for 10 minutes. This year the year 6 pupils will remain with their class teacher for their spelling learning and a list of the targeted words will be sent home via home learning diaries at the start of each unit. Spelling remains a key issue across the school. Please help your child by encouraging them to regularly revisit their targeted words and by building banks of words which follow the same spelling pattern. This year pupils' classroom spelling books will remain in school.

## NUMERACY

We are continuing the 'Times Table Challenge Awards' again this year and have new challenge sheets ready for your child to carry on where they left off at the end of year 5. There are no short cuts for learning tables: it's just hard work but having instant recall of multiplication facts is extremely empowering and any support you can offer your child is hugely beneficial. Across the school for the first half of term we are planning to link our maths whenever possible to the Rugby World Cup taking place in New Zealand. In year 6 our key learning focus is on number to support pupils in consolidating both mental and written strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and ensuring pupils have numerous learning opportunities to apply these skills in context. It is vital that your child revisits their learning at home so that the learning is not lost. To help with this, key lessons are uploaded onto Frog, maths home learning is set and every other week a new mind boggling maths challenge is in the School section of Frog, so please have a look and have a go yourself. Once a week we will have a problem solving activity where your child can use their new found skills and apply this knowledge in a practical way which will provide them with key skills needed in everyday life.



## ICT

In year 6 we continue to provide pupils with additional learning opportunities through our use of Frog, our secure Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). At the start of term pupils will be taught to use a greater variety of Frog bricks to build their own My Page and will be able to download key lessons at home to help consolidate learning as well as contribute to the teacher initiated learning conversations within Frog. Home learning will be also be systematically uploaded to Frog. We will also be learning to use the podcasting software Podium, which we will use to create sound files to support our Literacy and our IPC learning in particular. Students will learn how to record and upload sound files, edit and crop them as well as change their volume and their position within a broadcast, creating complex podcasts with a number of different layered files.



## A WODHES KEWSEL KERNEWEK? PARLEZ- VOUS FRANCAIS?

For the first half of the Autumn term across the school pupils will be learning Cornish with a focus on learning common phrases and being able to count in Cornish. We will also be learning about the history of the Cornish language and how it has evolved over time. We will then be consolidating our French skills learnt in year 5, and developing our ability to talk about making use of 'Rigolo' our online school French resource which can be accessed at home through our Virtual Learning Environment, Frog. We will also develop our knowledge of number in French, learning to carry out calculations using all four maths operations with numbers up to 20. We will be learning the names of both animals and pets, learning to describe them effectively. Every day we will be doing "Wake and Shake" through French songs, which we hope you'll be keen to learn at home.

## MUSIC

Linking to our Primary Languages learning we will be learning a number of traditional Cornish songs and sea shanties, singing them in the round before learning about different musical elements (for example tempo, pitch, dynamics, timbre and texture) and incorporating these into our own compositions using both tuned instruments and the software Groovy music.

## ART

This term we will be embarking on an exciting initiative entitled the 'Great Art Quest' in conjunction with the Tate St Ives and the Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts. This will involve trips to local art galleries and the opportunity to learn alongside artists and storytellers.

This term we will also be focusing on our drawing and painting skills and our art learning will link closely to our literacy and IPC learning throughout. We will link our IPC topic 'Making the News', to the study of portraiture, referring to artworks by Francis Bacon, Frida Kahlo and Van Gogh.

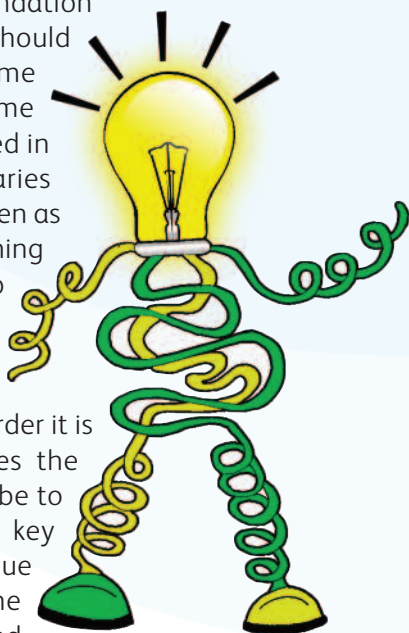
Our learning of the story of An Gof and the Cornish rebellion of 1497 will again focus on portraits, this time those of the Tudor period, including those of Hans Holbein and Giovanni Bellini. We will also be creating battle scenes to link with both our learning on the Battle of Blackheath and for our Cornwall at War topic, using works such as Picasso's Guernica and Artdorfer's Battle of Alexander at Issus for inspiration. We will be using chalk, charcoal and acrylic paint throughout the term so please provide your child with an art shirt to keep in school: an old t-shirt or pyjama top would be perfect.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our RE learning this term is focused on Christianity and foundations which underpin Christian morality. We will be learning about a number of the key beliefs which are key to the Christian faith and how Christians uphold these beliefs by developing our knowledge and understanding of Christian stories as well as exploring the role of Christian charities that address issues such as poverty. In the second half of the term we will be learning about the founding of Truro cathedral and its importance for many people in Cornwall.

## HOME LEARNING

Government recommendation is that a year 6 child should do 30 minutes of home learning a night. Home learning will be recorded in the home learning diaries on Mondays and as often as possible the home learning will be linked to learning in class and children will be encouraged to do the home learning in the order it is set in. At other times the home learning set will be to consolidate essential key skills. We aim to continue using the online software Mymaths and SAM learning whenever possible for English and Maths



homework and will build into home learning regular contribution to learning discussions on Frog. For those students who do not have online access at home we will be able to provide an early morning slot in the ICT suite each week to allow home learning to be completed.

Home learning will usually follow the pattern of:

**Monday:** Get Spelling / Science / Frog updates

**Tuesday:** Maths / Frog updates

**Wednesday:** English / Frog updates

**Thursday:** Times table practice / Frog updates

**Friday:** Extended reading / Frog updates

Spellings and Maths home learning will be differentiated where appropriate, so if the children find the learning either too easy or too difficult, PLEASE DO NOT WORRY. Just let us know, and we can adjust the homework set accordingly.

There may be times when alternative homework may be set, IPC for example, and this will be recorded in your child's home learning diary on Monday. Home learning will be set the week starting Monday 12th September.

## HOME LEARNING DIARIES

It is expected that children bring their home learning diary to school every day so that we may communicate with you more easily should the need arise, recording if your child has been heard to read- for example- or any other information we feel it is important to communicate. This is also good training for when your child moves on to the senior school. It is important that the children do not lose these books!

## READING

It is expected that children will read independently daily and aloud to an adult at least twice a week. We will record in your child's homework diary when we have heard them read. When you hear you child read at home please also record this in the homework diary.

We encourage all children in year 6 to have 2 reading books: one at home and one in school as this avoids having to remember to bring a reading book to school everyday. Children may change their library book before registration every day and each year 6 class will visit the library once a week.

## PE

The area of learning for the autumn term is Tag Rugby to coincide with the Rugby world cup in New Zealand. We will be learning key handling and passing skills as well as developing our tactical awareness of defence and attack strategies. Year 6 children will also be having swimming lessons at St Ives Leisure Centre where they will have the

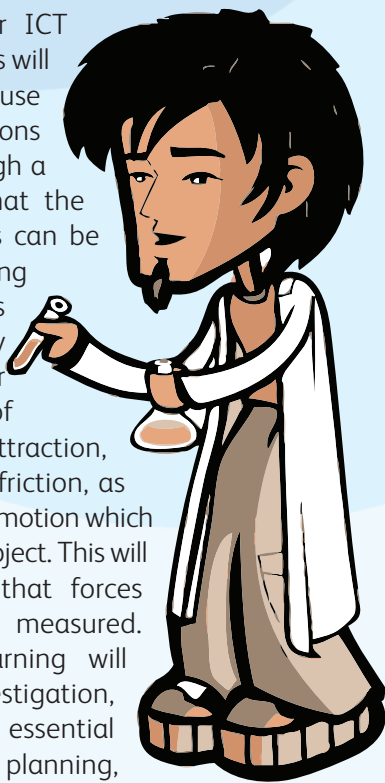
opportunity to improve and develop their technique for different swimming strokes as well as enjoying their time in the water, building confidence. These lessons start on Wednesday 14th September.

CLASS	OUTDOOR PE
8	Thursday
9	Thursday
10	Wednesday

Children with long hair must bring a hair band to tie it back, for health and safety reasons, and all jewellery must be removed. Please bring in an envelope or small box for any ear rings to be put into to keep them clean.

## SCIENCE & DT

Our Science learning will focus on developing our understanding of the causes of sound, making links to our ICT podcasting learning. Students will learn how vibrations cause sounds, that these vibrations travel from the source through a variety of materials and that the volume and pitch of sounds can be altered. We will also be learning about the human body, its organs and the circulatory system and will also apply our knowledge of a variety of forces, including magnetic attraction, gravitational attraction and friction, as well as explore the changes in motion which occur when forces act on an object. This will consolidate understanding that forces have direction and can be measured. Wherever possible the learning will include a practical investigation, enabling us to develop essential investigational skills such as planning, making predictions, making observations and writing effective conclusions. Our DT learning will see us focussing on food technology where we will be making delicious Christmas cakes, having evaluated exiting products on the market before designing and then creating our own. Thanks to Mrs Smith in advance for volunteering her expertise.



## PSHE

Our SEAL learning is entitled New Beginnings and will focus on being an effective part of a group and raising awareness of our rights and responsibilities in a school context. This theme focuses on developing children's knowledge,

understanding and skills in four key social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, self-awareness, social skills and motivation. Throughout the theme, children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, and learn shared models for 'calming down' and 'problem solving'.

## Important dates:

- WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 12TH SEPT- IEP MEETINGS FOR CHILDREN ON THE RECORD OF NEED
- WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPT- Y6 SWIMMING LESSONS START
- TUESDAY 13TH SEPT AT 2:30- MEET YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER
- MONDAY 19TH SEPT- Y6 'MAKING THE NEWS' LAUNCH DAY
- WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 26TH SEPT- AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START



Thank you in advance for your continued support in helping your child to succeed.