



Spring term 2012

St Ives Junior School

Y6 newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy new year and to thank parents and carers for their support during the autumn term. We are very much looking forward to the term ahead, which promises to be incredibly busy and packed with stimulating, motivating and fun learning experiences, preparing the year 6 pupils for their SATs which take place the week beginning Monday 14th May 2012.

We have included general information about the term below, however should you have any queries then please contact Miss Hart, Mr Tudor or Mrs McAvoy or Mr Allcock by either making an appointment or dropping in after school. Once again our best wishes for the New Year and thank you for your continuing support.

DT & ART

We start the term with a burst of creativity! Developing our food technology skills we will be evaluating, designing and then making our own New Year cakes, under the expert guidance of Mrs Smith.

In Art we will be embarking on an exciting project called The Great Art Quest in conjunction with The Tate St Ives. This is funded by The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts and will involve working alongside professional artist Vicky Wiltshire and storyteller Craig Johnson in addition to visits to the Barbara Hepworth Museum and The Tate St Ives. The aim is to develop the pupils' understanding and responses to the works of art they see and the project will culminate in an exhibition of the children's own art work in the Tate St Ives. Furthermore, each pupil will receive a free pass so that they can bring family members to the gallery to celebrate the outcomes!

GUIDED WRITING

During targeted guided writing lessons pupils will have the opportunity to develop their writing skills with a particular focus on sentence construction, making appropriate word choices and developing their skills in answering questions.

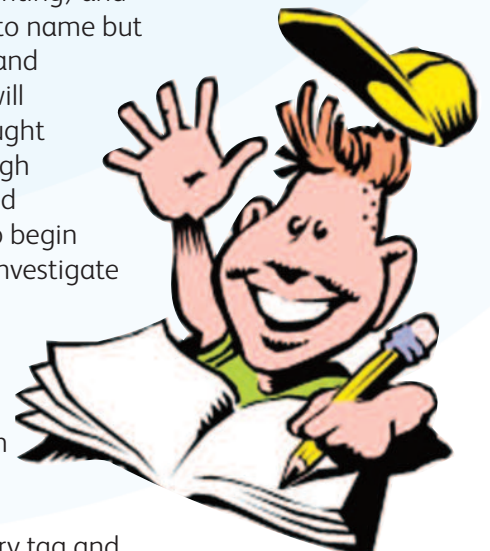
GUIDED READING

Guided reading will be taught, in conjunction with guided writing, every other week for 20 minutes each morning. During

this time we will be exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Our focus will be on developing children's reading comprehension skills, such as inference and deduction, as well as improving their fluency and decoding skills. It is the expectation that children visit the library regularly and are encouraged to have at least 2 fiction books and 1 non-fiction book. As part of homework children are expected to read aloud to somebody at home at least once a week.

LITERACY

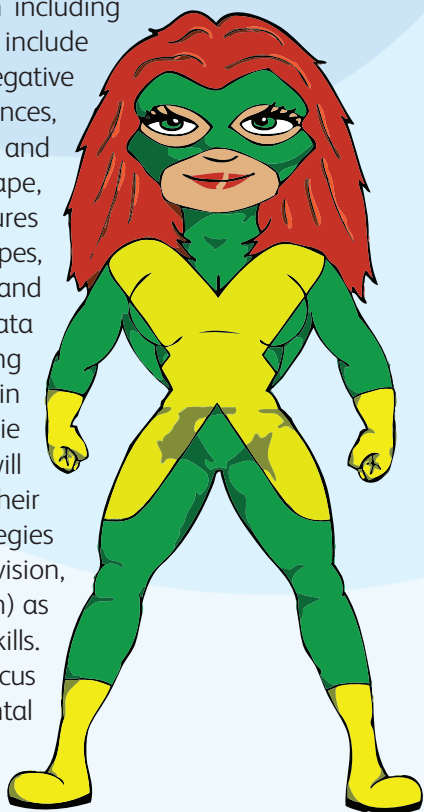
We will be covering a number of different non-fiction and fiction genres this term, including 'Whose side are you on?' texts (discussion writing), 'Been there done that!' writing (recount writing) and 'Warning stories' to name but three. Our fiction and non-fiction texts will continue to be taught and learned through the storytelling and writing process. To begin each unit we will investigate the writing form, learning all about the key features lined to a variety of topics. We then imitate a story or text through story telling, drama, story tag and



hot seating before innovating 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. This worked very successfully last term and if you haven't already, grab your copy of our Hwedlow Kernow (a published collection of Cornish related tales at the bargain price of £3 from Mrs Prescott in the office!) Planning will also be part of the literacy programme this term and children will be taught explicitly how to plan a piece of writing for different genres, as well as spending time learning how to 'tweak' their own writing by editing and punctuating.

MATHEMATICS

Our math's learning this term will cover many of the different areas of the curriculum including number (which will include properties of number, negative numbers, number sequences, estimating, rounding and place value: phew!), shape, space and measures (including 2d and 3d shapes, symmetry, area and perimeter), and data handling (interpreting information and data in line and bar graphs and pie charts). Most lessons will allow pupils to develop their calculation strategies (multiplication, division, addition and subtraction) as well as their calculator skills. One lesson a week will focus on teaching pupils' mental math strategies, giving them the opportunities to develop these skills collaboratively and independently and every week pupils will systematically apply their learning to real life contexts. We continue to focus as a school on instant recall of times tables and will be encouraging students to achieve their bronze, silver and gold awards if they haven't done so already. There really is no short cut for learning times tables, but they are a key skill which underpins so much other maths.



ICT

Our learning in the ICT suite will focus on using spreadsheets effectively this term, linking their use to the recording and presentation of data, applied closely to our maths and science learning. We will also use one ICT

session a week to consolidate our learning in literacy, maths or science.

If you are online at home your child can still make use of the Mymaths at www.mymaths.co.uk and samlearning at samlearning.com resources if they would like to. You may also find the following sites useful-

BBC revisewise:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise

Woodlands Junior school:

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

Primary resources:

www.primaryresources.co.uk

Crickweb:

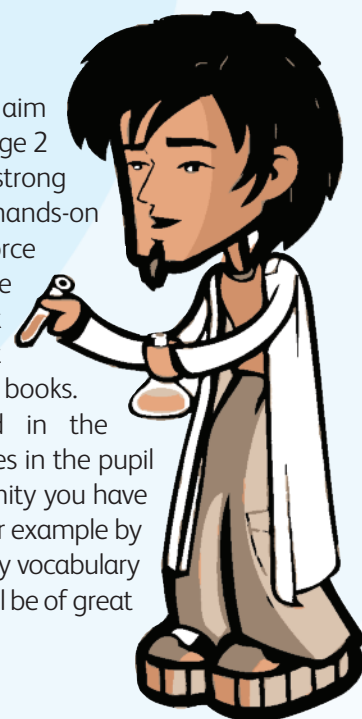
www.crickweb.co.uk

Primary games:

www.primarygames.com

SCIENCE

Over the course of this term we aim to revisit all areas of the key stage 2 science curriculum, with a strong emphasis on using hands-on investigative science to reinforce the pupils' scientific knowledge and understanding. Each week science homework will be set from the pupils' study books. Explanations can be found in the knowledge books, with activities in the pupil worksheet books. Any opportunity you have to work alongside your child, for example by helping them to understand key vocabulary or explaining a learning task, will be of great benefit.



PE

Our learning focus for PE this term is going to be on football and gymnastics. Each lesson will build on our current skill level and will cover key principles of football and gymnastics. In football we are going to be learning new skills like dribbling the football, passing the ball, controlling the ball, shooting effectively at goal, tackling on our feet and movement on and off the ball (spatial awareness) as well as applying the main principles of attack and defence in practice matches. In gymnastics we will be building on last year's learning to explore ways of moving around the floor and also using a range of movements such as sliding, rolling and jumping on a variety of gymnastic apparatus to create sequences.

Our learning will be split into 2 slots: football one day and gymnastics the other.

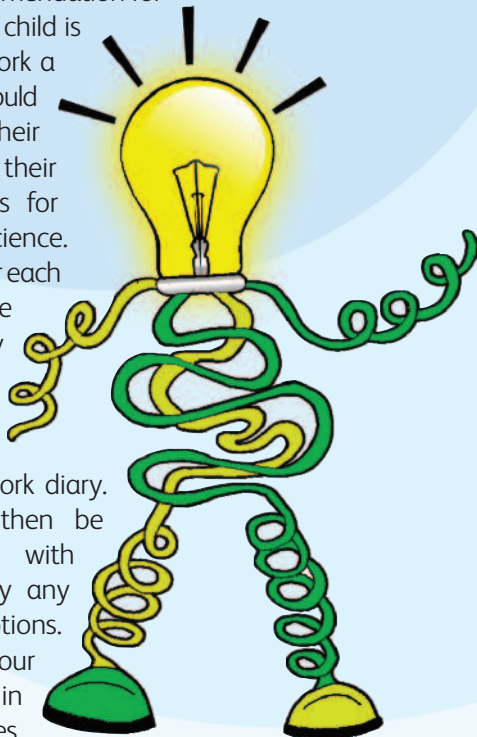
Times for PE sessions are as follows:

Class 8	Tuesday and Thursday
Class 9	Monday and Thursday
Class 10	Wednesday and Thursday

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.

HOME LEARNING

The government recommendation for homework for a year 6 child is 30 minutes of homework a night. All the children should have received their knowledge books and their pupil worksheet books for English, Maths and Science. The worksheet books for each subject need to be brought to school every Friday with the set homework completed and signed off by you in your child's homework diary. The homework will then be marked as a class with opportunities to clarify any general mis-conceptions. Thank you for your continued messages in the homework diaries, your feedback and comments are very valued.



Generally homework for the week will follow the pattern of:

Monday:	English.
Tuesday:	Maths.
Wednesday:	Science.
Thursday:	Catch up from 3 previous days, times tables and contributing to Frog.
Friday:	Reviewing home learning and continuing to clarify mis-conceptions as well as extended reading and contributing to Frog.

Important dates:

- HALF TERM- Monday 13th to Friday 17th February
- FEAST DAY (School Closed)- Monday 6th February
- PROGRESS REVIEW DAY- Monday 19th March. School closed for in depth, annual parent & their child conference.
- Y5/6 SWIMMING GALA- Thursday 29th March
- LAST DAY OF TERM- Friday 30th March
- KEY STAGE 2 SATS- Week beginning 14th May

