

# Year 5&6 Newsletter

## Autumn Term 1 2011

### Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer full of fun and are ready for another great year. There are lots of exciting opportunities ahead throughout the terms and we are looking forward to enjoying them with you.

### What we are learning about this half term...



Our Learning Journey this half term is called “Around the World in 30 days” and includes geography, literacy, ICT and music. The WOW factor will be an introduction to different countries through a Bingo game as well as a look at postcards collected over the summer. During our journey we will be listening to music from around the world as well creating music, reading stories from other cultures, writing our own stories and using the internet to research different countries.

Other areas of the curriculum will be taught discretely (not included in the Learning Journey.) In French, we will be revising the basics of conversation and shop names in preparation for the Y6 trip to France. In RE we will be introduced to the religion of Islam, by learning who the followers of this religion are, ideas that are central to their beliefs and which countries are Islamic. In SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) we will be focusing on ‘new beginnings’. In PE this term we will be covering both gymnastics and invasion games.

### Week 1...

During the first week of term we have celebrated our skills and talents as the whole school took part in a short learning journey entitled “Marvellous Magical Me!” This was a great opportunity for the children and teachers to get to know one another and appreciate the talents within our classes.

During the week we also enjoyed circus skills workshops that encouraged children to persevere to develop different skills such as walking a tightrope, stilt walking and juggling.



### Classroom organisation

Mrs McParland and Mrs Mace will be working in Chestnut Class this year alongside Miss Brierley. Mrs Weald and Mrs Walsom will be working alongside Mrs Galea in Rowan. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Keeling-Munn to Rowan on a Wednesday morning and first session on a Thursday when Mrs Galea will not be in the classroom due to other responsibilities across the school.

### PE



Just a quick reminder that children should have their PE kit in school every day just in case there is an opportunity for extra PE or if they need to change their footwear for an activity.

Rowan have indoor PE on a Wednesday and outdoor PE on a Friday; Chestnut have indoor PE on a Monday and outdoor PE on a Thursday.

### Takeaway tasks...

This term we are introducing a new style of home learning. We would like to encourage children to take some responsibility in choosing the type of home learning that suits them.

The 'takeaway tasks' offer a range of intelligences including visual, kinaesthetic, musical and interpersonal as well as thinking levels such as knowing, understanding, applying and creating. This will allow children to attempt a range of activities from writing, to creating a model or to researching.

Children will be expected to choose one task a week in addition to either maths or literacy homework set. It would be great if children could complete a range of tasks over the term to develop a variety of skills.



### Videos/films

Over the course of the year, we would like to show pupils in Year 5/6 excerpts or whole films which may have a PG certificate. Obviously the teachers will carefully screen these excerpts/films first to ensure they are suitable, but if you would prefer your child not to view films with this rating or wish to discuss it further, please speak to their teacher.

Unless we hear from you, we will assume that you have given your consent for this to happen.



### Y6 France Trip and Y5 project week...

As you are aware the Y6 children will be taking a VERY exciting trip to France in the sixth week of term. They will experience French culture through their taste buds, hear (and speak!) French as well take part in a range of exciting activities. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE APPLY FOR YOUR CHILD'S EHC CARD IMMEDIATELY.

There is a meeting for parents on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at **2.30pm** in the school hall to discuss the final details.



Whilst the Y6 children are away, the Y5 children will be working on a week long project which will culminate in a class assembly on the Friday afternoon. This will be design and technology based. It will be practical, fun and messy! More details will follow shortly...

### Dates for your diary...

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September – after school clubs begin

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Meet the Teacher evening 5.30pm/6.15pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – France trip meeting for Y6 parents

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest festival at Holy Trinity Church

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Y6 France trip and Y5 project week

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Y5 class assembly tbc.



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