



Silver Tree Primary School
Durham Road
Ushaw Moor
Durham
DH7 7LF
Tel/Fax: 0191 3730622
Email: silvertree@durhamlearning.net

Head Teacher: Mrs. N. Maughan

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Dear Parent / Carer,

During the next term Year 6 will be focussing on the following:

English will be book based. Our book will be "Northern Lights". The key grammar and punctuation covered include using passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence, using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely, using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (ie omitted) relative pronoun. Spelling skills involve a revision of all the spelling rules and ensuring they are able to apply them in our writing. We will also look at further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them, spell some words with 'silent' letters [for example, knight, psalm, solemn] and use a dictionary efficiently.

In addition, we will be reading and discussing a range of books during our guided reading sessions throughout the year. Depending on your child's group they will be reading one of the following: The Secret Garden, The Indian in the Cupboard, An Elephant in the Garden, Carrie's War, The Boy in the Dress, Whale Boy.

Maths will cover a variety of mathematical concepts but the main emphasis will be on introducing pupils to the types of questions which occur on the current style SATS papers. This will ensure that they are comfortable using and applying their maths knowledge and skills in a multitude of situations.

Science: "Evolution and Inheritance" is our main topic this term. Year 6 will be aided in this by a final year Durham University Science student who will be lending her knowledge and expertise to our lessons.

History: Your children will be studying Baghdad in the year 900AD to provide contrast with British history. We will also be starting a topic on the Vikings.

Geography: "Understanding the Water Cycle" This will involve investigating water safety and water conservation. After the water cycle we will be moving onto orienteering and map reading skills.

RE: the importance of ritual in worship and we will be studying and comparing Christian and Muslim practices. We will also be looking at the Easter Story as we approach the end of term.

Music, Art and DT: with the demands of the SATS, I am sure you will understand that the emphasis in Yr 6 must be placed on Maths, English and related written subjects this year, but this term will still see us undertaking an Art project on the theme of "Animal Movement". Music this term will involve the study and appreciation of a selection of music which conveys a mood or atmosphere and the children will be studying how this is achieved.

Computing: will be closely linked to all subjects as we learn how to use search engines efficiently, present multi media presentations and, most importantly, learn about internet safety and the dangers of cyber-bullying. We will also be designing, writing and debugging programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems.

PSCHE Becoming responsible, mature and independent is the key focus in Year 6 with emphasis on our Head Boy and Head Girl elections. This is to prepare them for their move to Secondary School next year. There will also be promotion of British Values through discussion around anti-racism, anti-radicalization and LGBT.

PE focus will be on team games such as football and tennis. PE will be on a Thursday afternoon.

Please ensure PE kit is in school at all times!

Homework this term will focus primarily on revision guides to prepare for the SATs in May. I will set pages to work through each week, but I would encourage pupils to look through the booklets themselves and decide which areas they need to prioritize. Home reading will continue as normal with pupils completing their reading records ready for each morning.

I must also stress the importance of a high attendance at school. If your child is absent, especially in Year 6, they can miss vital lessons and this leaves them at a disadvantage when they come to sit the SATs tests and then move on to their next school. A mature approach to life and work in Year 6 is to be encouraged at all times and I would be grateful if you could help your child become aware of the importance of self-control and hard work.

Yours faithfully,
G. Johnston-McKee

