

# Cheddington Combined School



Outline of Autumn Term  
2023/2024  
Year 6

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to this new academic year and also to life in Year 6.

Year 6 is an extremely busy year and we are delighted to welcome our new class as our learning journey continues towards the end of Key Stage 2.

During 'Good to be Us' week we have been establishing routines, recognising the importance of mental health and wellbeing and looking at personal safety, including safe use of the internet. These are issues that are becoming more and more important as children are becoming increasingly confident navigating the web and using it not only for researching but also for socialising. This year, we aim to set high goals for our futures by looking at what we might consider to be important features of our future careers.

### English

Over the term we will be giving the children a variety of opportunities to enhance their skills of composition, spelling and grammar and spoken word, as outlined in their age-related curriculum. Our first class novel is 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin, which is a fictional 'what if' story based on Charles Darwin's voyages. This links with our Science learning. Pupils will read, discuss and identify the key writing features and use it as a model and inspiration for writing including diary writing, narrative writing, biographical writing and non-chronological reports. In reading, the children will develop their skills in inference and deduction, using texts to reference their responses.

### Maths

In mathematics we will be covering all areas of the curriculum with a specific focus on the written methods of calculations that we use higher up in Key Stage 2, including mathematical reasoning. It is **imperative that children are secure on their times tables** in Year 6, and we would encourage you to practise these as much as possible with your child if they are less confident.

### Science

Two units will be covered this term: 'Living Things and Their Habitats' and 'Earth and Evolution'. Lessons will be based around practical investigations to develop our scientific thinking and to help develop knowledge and understanding.

## Geography

Our unit planned for this term is divided into two parts. The first part is based around map skills learning about the key geographical features of North America. The second is a closer study of the people and features of a region of the USA, our class country.

## History

This term our topic is Ancient Greece where we will study Greek life, their achievements and influence on the western world through democracy.

## Design Technology

During assessment week later this term, we will explore a range of materials to design, make and evaluate artefacts inspired by ancient Greek culture.

## PE/Games

The children will be furthering their ball skills by focusing on football and netball. We will also be learning how to lead games and activities which supports their 'playground leading' roles. Long hair must be tied back and earrings removed or taped over for all PE lessons.

## Music

During the first part of the term we will be looking at modern music, based around the song Happy by Pharrell Williams, before building on the children's learning from last year when we continue exploring jazz. For each of these styles we will listen, compose and perform short pieces.

## RE

In RE we will be considering the question 'Why do some people go on a Pilgrimage?'. We will also look at different pilgrimage sites around the world, their religions and how it affects individuals and communities.

## Art

In the first part of the term, we will be looking at the work of Gustav Klimt and creating collages using repeated geometric shapes in the patterning of gowns and clothing. We will also be producing a figurative image in the cubist style using collage in response to the work of Pablo Picasso.

Later on in the term we will make observational drawings and develop their work using a wide range of media.

## Computing

Initially we will be looking at how to stay safe online and our online footprints and reputation. We will then progress to programming an action game using Kodu; gathering and presenting a mixture of information using a desktop publisher. Kodu is a piece of software that is free and accessible at home; if you have an Xbox you can program the controllers to work on the computers as well.

## Modern Foreign Languages

We will look at French language and phrases for the school environment including equipment, describing clothing and uniform before integrating the concept of time telling in French.

## Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

In PSHE, we will be learning about what 'mental health' is, how to manage it and how to look after ourselves. Class discussions and activities will be focussed around managing change, keeping safe online and managing interpersonal relationships. We will be covering HRSE (Health, Relationships and Sex Education) later in the year. We will write to you separately to ensure you are fully informed of when it will be delivered and what the content will be.

There is a great deal to cover in the curriculum in Year 6. However, it is also an important year in which to prepare the children for life at secondary school. In order to prepare them as well as possible, we will be continuing to encourage the children to take responsibility for remembering equipment, homework and handing things in on time. Keeping to deadlines and managing homework can be one of the most difficult things to manage when starting secondary school, and we strongly believe that starting off with a set routine in Year 6 is important to help them in the transition to Year 7.

Mrs Gothard, Mrs White and the Year 6 team.