

## **Would you survive the wilderness?**

The last term in year 6 at Cledford is always very busy and full of fun and this year will be no exception! Our topic is called 'Would you survive the wilderness?' as we learn all about mountains, deserts and the ancient Mayans.

### **English**

We will start the term by exploring a beautiful book called 'Leaf' which explores themes of difference, friendship and home. The illustrations in this text are particularly stunning and we will use it as inspiration for poetry and art. We are also going to be reading a book called 'Survivors' and finding out about some incredible tales of human survival. This book will give the children lots of opportunities to write for different purposes – to inform, to explain, to describe and to entertain – and using drama, music, art, science and technology as stimulus for this. We will focus on the importance of word choice for creating a particular effect as well as developing accuracy of punctuation to enhance meaning. Editing writing is a tricky skill but vital in the production of high quality pieces. As a result, significant time will be spent on editing and improving to ensure that the final pieces are as good as they can possibly be. As always, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading in widening vocabulary and honing an interest in the richness of our language. Please continue to read with your child each night and discuss the texts to make 'book talk' a positive and powerful part of their learning.

### **Maths**

As well as continuing to develop our understanding of calculations, problem solving and reasoning about maths, we will be applying our measuring and data handling skills through science and DT project work this term. Fluency and efficiency of working methods will remain a focus of our teaching as we revise the learning from over the course of Key Stage 2 and think about ways to solve problems with increasing accuracy. Of course, it is vital that children have a sound and speedy recall of their times tables up to 12x12 as well as the related division facts. Please ensure that you continue to work on these with your child every day to support our work in school.

### **Science**

In physics, we will learn about electricity before putting our knowledge to use when we design and make torches to link with our survival theme.

### **History**

We will explore what life was like for the ancient Mayans including family roles, the types of jobs they did and what their diets were like. As well as finding out about some of the things that still remain today from ancient Mayan civilisation, we will be discovering what happened to the Mayan people and exploring some possible causes for their decline.

### **Geography**

We are going to be finding out about deserts, mountains and extreme climates this term. Human capacity for survival is amazing and we will be thinking about some of the ways humans have made use of natural features to help them survive.

### **Music**

We are going to be comparing the work of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky this term after appraising some of their most famous pieces. We will offer our own opinions about musical features and use appropriate technical vocabulary in our discussions.

### **Art**

The preparation of different colours and textures for our collages will be the focus of our initial art lessons this term as we try to replicate the stunning setting of our class story, 'Leaf'. Later in the term, we will use clay coils and slips to make our own cups and bowls as part of a wilderness survival kit.

**RE**

We are going to compare and contrast key Christian, Hindu and Muslim beliefs about God. Then, we will consider what motivates people to work together to impact both UK society and the wider world through environmental and global charities such as Islamic Aid and Christian Aid.

**DT**

Last term's DT project continues this term as we make full use of the seasonal produce on offer for our healthy and delicious salads. Mrs Croft will help us to select ingredients whilst considering the hygiene and cost elements we worked so hard to learn about last term.

**PE**

PE this term will focus on cricket and rounders. We are lucky to again have cricket coaches working with us this term again too, helping us to improve our batting and fielding skills as well as promoting our sense of teamwork and fair play. Outdoor adventures will be part of our PE curriculum this term as we use some 'Forest Schools' challenges to extend our thinking about survival.

**French**

Consolidating our previous learning whilst extending our vocabulary, we will continue to hold simple conversations with at least four exchanges. As always, learning will centre around real-life situations such as asking for directions and offering simple opinions.

**Homework**

Children are expected to read 5 times a week and regularly have their reading record signed by an adult. Children are permitted to read independently and write their own comments. However, it is vital that an adult at home listens to them read regularly and records this in their diary. We cannot place enough emphasis on the importance of daily reading to increase both fluency and comprehension skills as well as developing a love of reading which in turn helps so many aspects of learning later on.

Weekly spelling tests will continue and the importance of supporting your child to learn their spellings is enormous. The words set as spellings have distinct letter patterns which are common in our language. Just five minutes of revision each night has a noticeable impact upon the quality and accuracy of writing.

Each week, a homework challenge page will be sent home. Tasks will support and consolidate classroom learning from across the curriculum. Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in by Wednesday the following week.

Lastly, we have a leavers' celebration to prepare for and, whilst we cannot yet be certain about the form this will take, we know that the children will use their creativity, imagination and energy to put together something both special and memorable. Further details about follow nearer the time. Thank you for your understanding and patience with this.

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated as always. We are looking forward to a busy term with plenty of fun and laughter ahead. As always, if you wish to discuss anything further then please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the year 6 team.

Kind regards

Miss Wagstaff and Miss Platt