

**Class 8**  
**Year 5/6**  
**Curriculum Newsletter**

**Spring Term One**

**2020 - 2021**

**School Contact Details**

New Pastures Primary School  
Upper School  
Doncaster Road  
Mexborough  
South Yorkshire  
S64 0LT

Tel:- (01709) 583271

Fax:- (01709) 578092

Headteacher: Mrs P. Belnavis  
Deputy Head teacher: Mr T. Purdy

**Learning Behaviours**

We always aim to focus on praising the positive behaviour demonstrated. We have also introduced a traffic light system to encourage 'green behaviour'. Children who display positive behaviour will remain on green. If inappropriate behaviour is shown, a warning is given. If the child does not make the right choice, their name will be moved to amber. Should the child immediately improve his/her behaviour and follow instructions given by an adult, their name is moved back up to green. Any more serious incidents will result in their name being moved straight to red. Any child who stays on green all week will result in a message sent to parents with the good news.

### **English Fiction**

Children will have the opportunity to write letters, stories and advertisements based on our class book 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian. The story is a World War II tale in which a grumpy widower living in a small village takes in a nine-year-old evacuee from London. The widower soon realises that his young charge has been damaged both mentally and physically at the hands of his strict mother. He sets about undoing the damage, teaching the youngster to read, write and draw, but as his tenth birthday looms, the child is summoned back to the city. The book mentions physical abuse, so if you wish your child not to read this part or watch the film then please let Mr Ridgill know.

English work will be linked to our topic or reading book helping the children to deepen their understanding. As a school, we feel that if they can be encouraged to write creatively it will help them to understand the characters in the story and their motivation behind the words they speak and the actions they carry out. Children will continue to develop their use of thesauruses to help extend their vocabulary.

In reading children will be developing their comprehension skills involving looking at different types of questions and what skills are required to answer them, as well as entering discussion based on our class novel.

### **Non-Fiction**

Pupils will be studying different elements of SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) which they will embed into their independent writing, such as relative clauses, modal verbs, colons and semi-colons in a list. They will be reading non-fiction books based on WW2.

### **Maths**

This term we will be looking at formal multiplication and division methods and then fractions.

Children build on previous steps to represent a 4-digit number multiplied by a 1-digit number using concrete manipulatives. They then move on to explore multiplication with exchange in one, and then more than one column. In division they use their knowledge from Year 4 of dividing 3-digits numbers by a 1-digit number to divide up to 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.

In fractions they will explore equivalent fractions using models and concrete representations. They use models to make the link to multiplication and division. Children then apply the abstract method to find equivalent fractions. It is important children have the conceptual understanding before moving on to just using an abstract method.

### **Scientific and technological understanding**

This term we will be covering the Y4 topic 'States of Matter' as it wasn't taught fully last year. They will learn about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle, creating mini water worlds and an interactive water wheel to represent the different stages.

### History and Geography

They will learn when and why World War II began and find out about the key individuals and countries involved. In addition to this, they will discover all about evacuation; learn what it was like to live with food rationing and explore the contribution made by women to the war effort. Furthermore, they will learn important facts about the Holocaust and investigate events that were key turning points in the war, such as the Battle of Britain and the German invasion of Russia. Studying World War II will help children to develop their investigation and evaluation skills; learn to organise information chronologically and understand how past events have helped to shape the world we know today.

### Art and design

In art, we will be taking part in 'Take One Picture' which is our national programme for primary schools, which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning.

### Jigsaw

In PSHE, we will be discussing our dreams and goals, finding out what types of jobs the children are interested in and what they can do to achieve their future dreams. We will compare our dreams with those from different cultures to see if they are the same and different. Then we will learn to respect others that have different views to ours and how to support each other.

### Religious Education

We will be answering the question "Are Sikh stories relevant today?" by looking at specific stories to determine if they are relevant to our lives in the modern world.

### PE

Year 5's will continue with their swimming lessons.

### Computing

In this unit learners will find out that vector images are made up of shapes. They will learn how to use the different drawing tools and how images are created in layers. They will explore the ways in which images can be grouped and duplicated to support them in creating more complex pieces of work. This unit is planned using the Google Drawings app other alternative pieces of software are available.

### Homework

Homework is given out to all children on a Friday and will need to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

Please can your child also **read at home at least three times a week** to ensure continued fluency. Ask questions about what they have read you can check their understanding.

Spellings will be given out on a Friday for the following week.

### **School times.**

During this current time, Class 8 will begin their day at 9:10am. You are welcome to stand with your child in the square to the right nearest the school gate if you arrive a bit early. From 9:00, your child will make their way down to the next square towards the school and line up.

Home time pick up is at 3:20pm (as soon as the other children have left). Please remember to social distance and wear a face covering while you wait for your child. If your child walks home alone, please can you send a letter giving permission.

**\* Reminders \***

### **Snacks**

This year we will not be supplying snacks to purchase at break time but children can bring fruit to eat as a snack (no cereal bars).

**If you need to have a word with your child's teacher please arrange an appointment after school when they will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.**