



St Brigid's
PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYMONEY

Curriculum Newsletter P6 Term I



Our World Around Us [WAU] theme for Term 2 is:

'Journeys'

This term our studies will explore the theme of 'Journeys'. The children will have opportunities to engage in a variety of active learning experiences across a range of areas of learning. Our topic of journeys will involve:

Science & Geography:

- Exploring the journey of a raindrop and recreating the water cycle in a glass bowl
- A study of the upper, middle and lower course of a river. Locating the longest rivers in the British Isles and the world on a map.
- Exploring water power - how can electricity be generated from water?
- Investigating the cause and effect of flooding, drought and pollution.
- Experimenting - Does the height of a ramp affect the distance a car travels?
Does the weight of a car affect the distance it will travel?
Does the surface of a ramp affect the speed and distance a car travels?

History:

- Researching famous explorers, their expeditions and their discoveries.
- Using maps to locate countries discovered.
- Exploring the history of a variety of modes of transport - the bicycle, the train, the car etc

Technology :

- Researching lighthouses around Ireland. Designing and making a lighthouse.
- Designing and making a wheeled vehicle.

The Arts :

- Water cycle mobiles and collage work.
- Illustrating the features of various sections of a river.
- Responding and creating a piece of music related to a section of the river or its journey.
- Design a stamp to commemorate a chosen explorer.

What else is happening in the curriculum?

ICT: Children will use ICT for a range of purposes including word processing of written material, as a research tool, as a method of collating/ presenting information. Children will produce posters to advertise using art programmes. They will use iPads to use Excel to create a movie based on an imaginary exploration and discovery of a new island.

MATHS: Year 6 will focus on a range of Mental Maths Strategies this term such as partitioning and concepts such as mixed number and improper fractions, equivalent fractions, prime, composite and cubed numbers. Children will be working on place value and the partitioning of numbers with 5 and 6 digits. They will revise multiplying 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers by a single digit and use rounding and adjusting to add/subtract. The children will also work on factors, multiples, prime, cubed, square and triangular numbers. The children will use data-handling to present the breakdown of our household/classroom waste. The children will explore analogue and digital time on the 12 and 24-hour clock with Mrs O'Mullan.

Literacy:

Our Guided Reading lesson will take place on a Wednesday. It is advised that your child gives priority to this book over the weekend. The children have completed their Accelerated Reading test and will embark on the programme. The children will be shown their individual progress in their AR Star test and are encouraged to complete an AR test at least once a fortnight depending on the length of their chosen book. Your support and interest is a key element in ensuring that your child benefits from taking part in the AR programme.

You can support your child by:

- Knowing what level your child is reading and how they are performing in their tests based on each book
- Ensuring there is time each day at home for your child to read their AR book
- Reminding your child to take their books to and from school each day (there will be quiet reading sessions during school and books need to be brought to school every day).

The Arts:

The children in Year 6 will be teaming up with the children from The Model P.S this term. They will engage in an Art initiative funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organised by the Causeway Coast and Glens. The children will explore the town in days gone past and the changes that have taken place. The children will work together to complete a wall hanging for each school.

There will be a strong emphasis on good presentation of work (dating work, ruling a margin, underlining etc) and using neat handwriting. I will be encouraging Primary Six children to write in our 'joined-up' handwriting style in class and at home. I would appreciate it if all homework could be checked and signed. Thank you!

What's going on?

Classroom Rules:

Year 6 have worked hard in groups to devise a set of classroom rules to create a positive learning environment. The children ranked these in order of importance and signed a 'contract' agreeing to keep their rules. Our classroom rules are included on the reverse of this sheet.

Our playground target this term in Year 6 is:

Following the rules of a game and playing fairly.

Year 6 Homework timetable is as follows:

Mon/Wed night - Maths

Tues Thurs night - Literacy /World Around Us.

The children will be expected to learn their weekly spellings and tables every night. There will be no written homework at weekends, however the children are given their Guided Reading book on a Friday and will be encouraged to read this over the weekend.

PE Lessons - For this term PE will take place on a Monday and will require full PE gear. The children will have a five week block of hockey coaching and will take place on Wednesday after break. The children will only be required to wear trainers for this. Our 'Daily Mile' will continue this year and will take place after lunch time.