

CHAD VALE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Curriculum News
Spring Term
Year 6C



Literacy

This term we will be looking at established stories and novels from several genres and authors including J. K. Rowling. In non-fiction we will be tackling discussion texts which balance and evaluate different points of view. We will also be studying formal writing including public information documents and notices. In our writing we will be consolidating work on complex sentences and how to successfully contract sentences.

Numeracy

This term we will be revisiting and consolidating work covered in previous years. In oral and mental maths we will be developing and using mental strategies and working to improve our rapid recall skills. Topics covered in Numeracy will include place value, problem solving, fractions, decimals and percentages and shape and space. After half term we will be moving on to handling data, problem solving involving measurement and money and the properties of number.



Revision Folders.

Thank you for all the encouragement and support the children have received to continue working through their revision folders. It is a particularly useful tool to help children work with an adult. Please continue encouraging your child, as revision is a very important part of their studies and independent work is a valuable technique to practice for secondary school life.

Reading

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have actively encouraged their child to read. I have noticed a huge improvement in the reading ability of many children. However there are still a few reluctant readers amongst us. Please encourage your child to talk about the book that they are reading. Refer to their reading diaries for guidance on types of questions you can ask. All children must bring their reading diaries and reading books to school everyday.

Remember: those who read well, write well!



Science



This term we will be studying Forces In Action. Our work will cover weight and gravity, forces in springs and elastic materials, buoyancy air resistance and scientific explanation. After half term we will be reviewing the topic electricity. We will be looking at and building circuits, designing using electrical symbols and investigating the effects of changes to circuits. Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to revise work and use their Science revision books at home. Thank you for all the support you are giving your child. It is very much appreciated.

History

Our history focus this term is on the lives of famous people. The children will learn about John Lennon, The Beatles and the impact that they had on British society and culture. We will be listening to and interpreting some classic Beatles tracks. There will also be some opportunity for independent study and research into the life of an interesting famous person.



in-

Geography.

This term our geography topic will be based on **Rivers**. The children will learn to recognise the features of the water cycle and will be sequencing it's components. We will be investigating what happens to rainfall when it hits the ground. We will be looking at the features associated with streams and rivers and the use of rivers by communities. The children will be researching rivers of the world and their effect on the landscape and the environment.



Core Vocabulary: water cycle, rainfall, source, slope, channel, valley, lake, mouth, erosion, tributary, reservoir, weir, meander, gorge, rapids, estuary, delta, weathering, deposition, transportation



Department
for Education

Key Stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test

Information for parents

What is the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test?

The English grammar, punctuation and spelling test assesses your child's English skills in four key areas in Year 6:

- spelling
- punctuation
- grammar; and
- vocabulary.

It forms part of the National Curriculum tests (NCTs) which are taken by pupils at the end of Key Stage 2. Your child's teacher will be able to explain what each of these key areas cover.

Why does my child have to take this test?

The Department for Education is introducing the test because we want to make sure that when children leave primary school they are confident in grammar, punctuation and spelling. The test will ensure that primary schools place a stronger focus on the teaching of these skills than in previous years.

The end of Key Stage 2 is a key point of a child's education, and we expect parents to want to know how well their child is learning the most important skills. Just as you will receive information from your child's school about how they perform in reading and maths, you will also receive information about how they are doing in grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The test results will provide teachers with useful information about your child's progress in each of the key areas. Most children will move to a secondary school the following term, and their new English teachers can use this information to focus their lessons on areas of need.

How will my child benefit from the test?

The ability to write and communicate are key life skills. Next term, your child will draw on these skills when taking part in new work across all of the different secondary subjects. In the long term, your child will be able to use these skills throughout their education and employment, and their adult life.

Changes are also being made to GCSEs so that from 2013 there will be marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar in key subjects. By developing confidence in these skills early on, your child will improve their chances of succeeding in important qualifications later on in their education.

Is this an extra test?

No. The original English writing test has been discontinued, and the new English grammar, punctuation and spelling test will be introduced in May 2013. From 2013, teachers will make a separate judgement on how well your child is doing in writing composition - such as composing letters or stories – instead.

How long is the test?

We expect that most children will take about an hour to complete the test.

When will I know how well my child has performed in the test?

Your school will let you know your child's result before the end of the summer term.

What if my child finds the test difficult?

Ask your child's teacher about what steps they can take to help your child to improve their grammar, punctuation and spelling skills. They may also be able to suggest how you can help your child to practise these skills at home.

Will this test be appropriate for my child as they have special educational needs?

Ask your child's teacher and the special educational needs co-ordinator how your child's needs will affect the way in which they complete the test, and what adjustments are available. They will also be able to tell you how the test result will be used to inform the support they receive as they move onto the secondary curriculum.

Where can I find more information about the test?

Further information about Key Stage 2 tests is available at www.education.gov.uk/ks2.

© Crown copyright 2012

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.