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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the final half term of the school year before the summer break, we wanted to get in touch again and let you know our plans for learning in the Upper Juniors. The Year 6 teachers and TA team are looking forward to another successful, exciting and busy half term.

Hopefully, we can look forward to some lovely summer weather - so please make sure that the students have water bottles and sun hats to come to school with and are also protected with sunscreen.

If you would like to support your child's learning at home, we thought it would be helpful for you to have a more detailed idea of what we are learning about.

We have also been sending optional homework home weekly. Students have the opportunity to achieve 3 house points for completed homework.

Maths

Stages A-E will be completing studies on Measure. All students will then have knowledge reviews targeted to their stage and individual class needs to help fill any gaps in mathematical learning identified by stage teachers. There will be a low-stakes end of year assessment in Maths, to inform future planning and grouping.

English

In English this half term, the students will investigate the writing of some significant authors, and also read and perform some playscripts, noting the features, before trying to write their own. During this term the Upper Juniors will be focusing on Danny Champion of the World by Roald Dahl to perform a playscript from.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsn4h39>

SPAG

Students will complete activities based on the following objectives:

- 1) Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices:
- 2) repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence] and ellipsis
- 3) Layout devices [for example, headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text]. They will also work on consolidating their understanding of previous SPAG objectives from KS1 and KS2.

Geography

In this unit - called Spatial Sense - students will look at longitude, latitude, the Prime Meridian, the tropics and the Antarctic and Arctic circle. They will explore the movement of the sun and how at the poles, polar night occurs. Students will look at a wide range of maps during this unit, using and applying their geographical skills, such as map reading, using symbols, grid references etc. in many different contexts as they learn about places around the world.

Science

Students will study a unit entitled Animals Including Humans, which will cover the relevant Year 6 objectives as well as touching on objectives from previous year groups as revision.

Objectives will include: to describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in human; to identify the different types of teeth in human and their simple functions; to identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food - they get nutrition from what they eat; to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function; to identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement; to describe changes as humans develop to old age; to identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood; to describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans, and to construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcyycdm>

They will also complete a unit on the properties and changes of materials, covering objectives such as:

- To compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets
- To understand that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution, to use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating, to give reasons, based on testing, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic, to demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes, and to explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible.

Computing

This unit explores the concept of repetition in programming using the Scratch environment. It begins with a Scratch activity similar to that carried out in Logo in Programming unit A, where learners can discover similarities between two environments. Learners look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use their knowledge to modify existing animations and games using repetition. Their final project is to design and create a game which uses repetition, applying stages of programming design throughout.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term, Upper Juniors will be discussing puberty, the body and conception.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/puberty/puberty-body/>

Juniors will also be exploring digital literacy and economic wellbeing. Students will be taught that not everything online is true, students will identify strategies to identify the reliability of online information. Students will also be discussing what online information is appropriate to share, including images.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zv63d2p>

Students will be discussing that not having enough money to pay bills can impact a person's mental health and wellbeing.

Students will explore how earning money pays for things, and that there are many different job roles within the community to suit strengths and interests.

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/education-resources/top-tips-on-economic-wellbeing>

PE

In Summer term 2 upper junior students will be learning about striking and fielding games and mini athletics.

Art

In art this half term, Upper Juniors will be continuing exploring 'Landscape Art'. Having already explored line, tone and pattern in the work of Van Gogh and Rousseau, students will bring these skills into their own landscape drawing of their local environment.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrnb9ty>

Drama

This half term, we will be developing communication skills and teamwork through group improvisation.

Music

In music, students will be exploring popular music through the ukulele. They will learn what a ukulele is and its basic features before beginning to strum through the four strings. They will then explore what a chord is in music and how we play two basic chords on the ukulele, moving on to use this chord knowledge to perform a simple popular song on the ukulele. This will build towards developing our chord playing technique on the ukulele to open up the four chord song, which we would then refine and rehearse for an ensemble performance.

As always, please do contact Ms Wade or Mr Slater if you would like any information supporting your child at home with learning.

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