

Delights

Dear Parents/Carers,

First and foremost, We would like to thank you all for your generous gifts that we received at Christmas and welcome you to a brand new year!

Our core readers in **English** this term are 'Clockwork' by Phillip Pullman The London Eye Mystery these books are linked to our topics Frozen Kingdom and Darwin's Delights. During these topics we will have opportunities to explore many different genres in English including; Short and Surrealist narrative, Recounts, Explanatory texts and Balanced Arguments. Our grammar work, which will support our writing, will include; spelling patterns, using adverbials and adverbial phrases, modal verbs, adding suffixes and using subordinating clauses and conjunctions. Please remember it is important to still listen to your child read on a regular basis.

For **Maths** we will initially focus our learning on Number - looking in more depth at Decimals, Percentages & Ratio. We will then apply what we already know about place value to support our learning of converting different measurements. In the second part of the term our focus will be on Algebra (this will support the children's thinking skills when solving more challenging problems) and statistics where the children will look at different ways of interpreting data.

Homework: This term our topics are called Frozen Kingdom and Gallery Rebels, this half term we are working on Frozen Kingdom. Here are some ideas for you to do at home:

- Use a range of snowy images to create a polar collage.
- Make 'iced jewels', mix powder paints and dyes into water, in an array of colours. Pour into ice cube trays before freezing overnight. Pop the cubes out and explore your jewels. What happens if you sprinkle salt on the cubes?

For our Darwins Delight topic you could...

- Look at photos of the different archipelago islands that Charles Darwin visited.
- Design and draw your own archipelago island.
- If you live near London, you could visit the Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum. If not, you can learn more about Charles Darwin and his work on the Natural History Museum website.

In **R.E.** the children will be discussing different beliefs and meanings focusing on the question "Is anything ever eternal?" In the second part of the term we look forward to Easter and think about how strong Christianity is as a religion.

As **Scientists**, linking with our topic Frozen Kingdom we will be learning about 'Living things and their habitats'. We will learn all about evolution in our topic 'Darwins Delights'.

As **Historians & Geographers** we will be studying the lives of some polar explorers and artists from long ago. We will be creating electronic timelines and writing diaries/postcards detailing the conditions endured by polar explorers.

As **Musicians** we will continue to develop our listening, improvising and composing using the African drums. As **Artists** we will look at the rich world of Inuit art and create our own masterpieces. We will also be looking at some of the great artists from the 19th & 20th Century!

Please note that we have P.E. every Tuesday and Wednesday, this half term our PE focus will be handball, we will have a specialist teacher. In the second half of the term, we will be returning to Poplar Baths for our swimming sessions. **Please ensure that children have the appropriate kit on these days. Please continue to support your child by arriving at 8.50 am. Homework will be given out on a Friday and expected to be returned on a Tuesday.**

Finally please don't hesitate to arrange a meeting to talk to any of us to raise any further questions or queries.

Many Thanks ~ The Year 6 Team